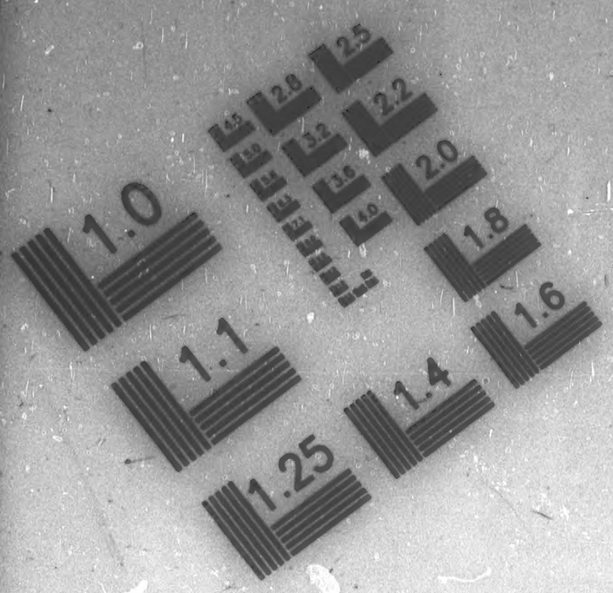
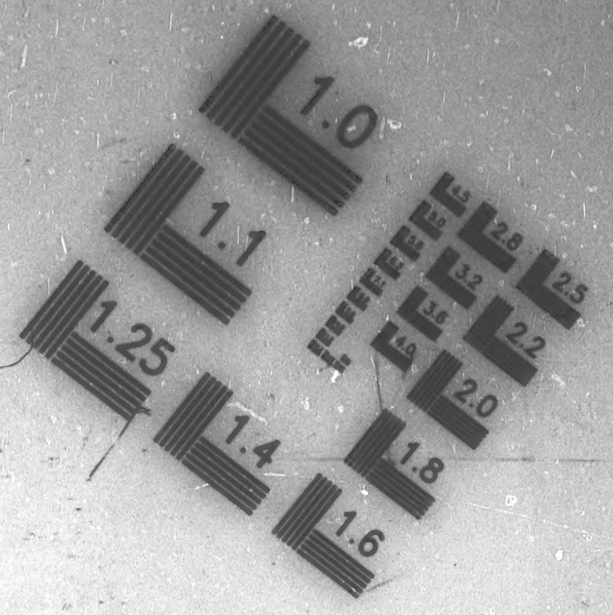
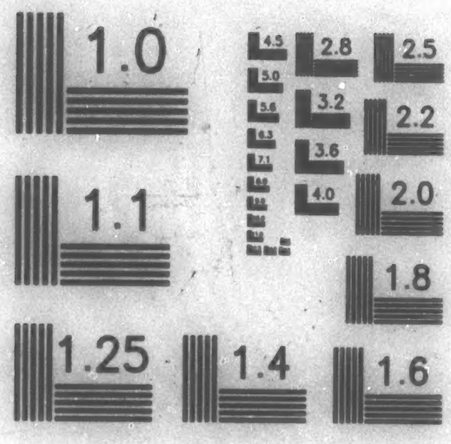
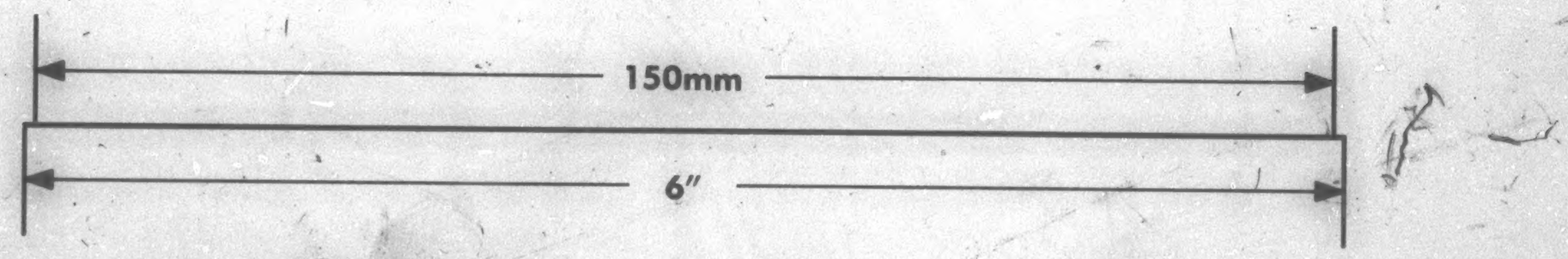

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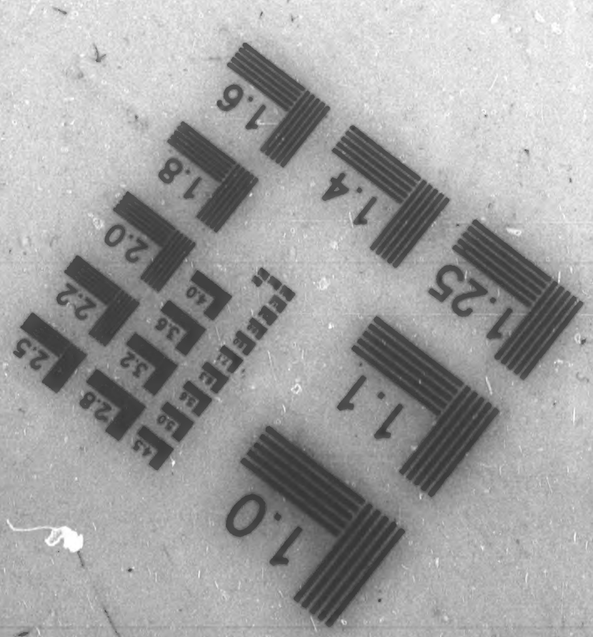
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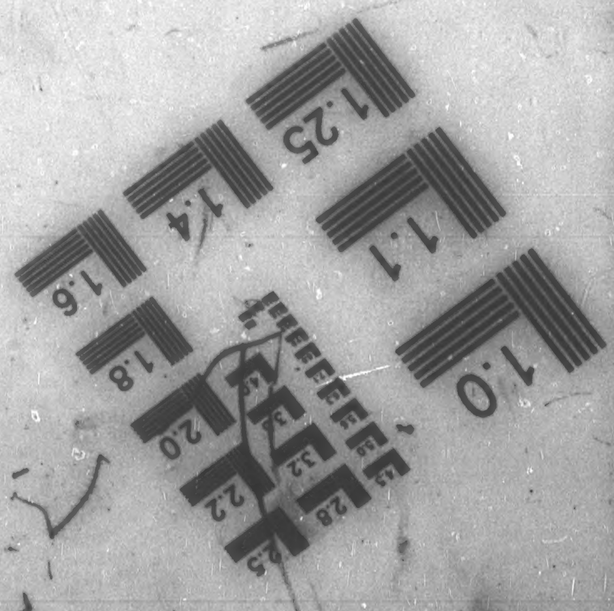






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NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
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M1901

RECORDS OF THE FIELD OFFICES FOR THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, BUREAU OF REFUGEES, FREEDMEN, AND ABANDONED LANDS, 1865–1872

United States Congress
and
National Archives and Records Administration
Washington, DC
2002

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORD ADMINISTRATION
FREEDMEN'S BUREAU PRESERVATION PROJECT

This National Archives microfilm publication is part of a multiyear project to microfilm the field office records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (Freedmen's Bureau). The project was made possible by the United States Congress through The Freedmen's Bureau Records Preservation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-444). When completed, all of the field records for the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and for the District of Columbia will be available on microfilm. For microfilm availability and description, consult the current edition of the National Archives publication *Microfilm Resources for Research: A Comprehensive Catalog*. You can also view the National Archives microfilm locator on our web site at *www.nara.gov*.

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** Benjamin Guterman edited the introductory materials.

INTRODUCTION

On the 23 rolls of this microfilm publication, M1901, are reproduced the records of the Arkansas field offices of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865–1872. These records consist of bound volumes and unbound records, containing materials that include letters and endorsements sent and received, monthly reports, applications of freedmen for rations, and other records relating to freedmen's claims and homesteads. These records are part of the Records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, Record Group (RG) 105, in the holdings of the National Archives of the United States.

This film series completes the reproduction of all Bureau records created in Arkansas between 1865 and 1872. Many of these records were reproduced in 1975 in National Archives Microfilm Publications M979, *Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Arkansas, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865–1869*, and M980, *Records of the Superintendent of Education for the State of Arkansas, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865–1871*.

History and Organization

The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, also known as the Freedmen's Bureau, was established in the War Department by an act of Congress on March 3, 1865 (13 Stat. 507). The life of the Bureau was extended twice by acts of July 16, 1866 (14 Stat. 173), and July 6, 1868 (15 Stat. 83). The Bureau was responsible for the supervision and management of all matters relating to refugees and freedmen, and of lands abandoned or seized during the Civil War. In May 1865, President Andrew Johnson appointed Maj. Gen. Oliver Otis Howard as Commissioner of the Bureau, and Howard served in that position until June 30, 1872, when activities of the Bureau were terminated in accordance with an act of June 10, 1872 (17 Stat. 366). While a major part of the Bureau's early activities involved the supervision of abandoned and confiscated property, its mission was to provide relief and help freedmen become self-sufficient. Bureau officials issued rations and clothing, operated hospitals and refugee camps, and supervised labor contracts. In addition, the Bureau managed apprenticeship disputes and complaints, assisted benevolent societies in the establishment of schools, helped freedmen in legalizing marriages entered into during slavery, and provided transportation to refugees and freedmen who were attempting to reunite with their family or relocate to other parts of the country. The Bureau also helped black soldiers, sailors, and their heirs collect bounty claims, pensions, and back pay.

The act of March 3, 1865, authorized the appointment of Assistant Commissioners to aid the Commissioner in supervising the work of the Bureau in the former Confederate states, the border states, and the District of Columbia. The Bureau's

operations began in Arkansas in May 1865, when Brig. Gen. John W. Sprague took command as Assistant Commissioner. By order of Commissioner Howard in Circular No. 5, dated May 30, 1865, he established headquarters at St. Louis, MO, the next month. Bvt. Maj. Gen. Edward O. C. Ord relieved Sprague in October 1866 and was succeeded by Bvt. Maj. Gen. Charles H. Smith in March 1867.

When Sprague arrived in St. Louis, his jurisdiction encompassed areas outside Arkansas, including Missouri, Indian Territory, parts of Kansas (around Fort Leavenworth and Fort Scott), and Illinois (around Quincy and Cairo). By September 1865, Commissioner Howard felt that the laws of Missouri afforded enough protection to freedmen for the Bureau's activities to cease there. On October 16, 1865, Sprague received orders from Commissioner Howard to transfer headquarters from St. Louis to Little Rock, Arkansas, and operations of the Bureau were by-in-large withdrawn from Missouri. However, in April 1867 Frederick. A. Seely was assigned as a disbursing officer for Missouri with headquarters at St. Louis, a position he held until February 1872. Although much of Seely's work related to the processing and payment of claims, he was also in charge of freedmen's affairs in Missouri. The headquarters remained in Little Rock until the Bureau's activities were terminated.

While the work performed by Assistant Commissioners in each state was similar, the organizational structure of staff officers varied from state to state. At various times, the staff could consist of a superintendent of education, an assistant adjutant general, an assistant inspector general, a disbursing officer, a chief medical officer, a chief quartermaster, and a commissary of subsistence. Subordinate to these officers were the assistant superintendents, or subassistant commissioners as they later became known, who commanded the subdistricts. The major subordinate field offices for the Bureau at Arkansas, for example, included those with headquarters at Arkadelphia, Augusta, Batesville, Camden, Lewisburg, Devall's Bluff, Fort Smith, Hamburg, Hampton, Helena, Jacksonport, Lake Village and Luna Landing, Lewisville, Little Rock, Madison, Magnolia, Marion, Monticello, Napoleon, Osceola, Ozark, Paraclifta, Pine Bluff, Princeton, South Bend, Union, and Washington. Under the direct supervision of the subassistant commissioners were the civilian and military agents. Occasionally, the Bureau retained military officers in a civilian capacity after the termination of their military service. For a list of known Arkansas subordinate field office personnel and their dates of service, see the Appendix.

The Assistant Commissioner corresponded extensively with both his superior in the Washington Bureau headquarters and his subordinate officers in the subdistricts. Based upon reports submitted to him by the subassistant commissioners and other subordinate staff officers, he prepared reports that he sent to the Commissioner concerning Bureau activities in areas under his jurisdiction. The Assistant Commissioner also received letters from freedmen, local white citizens, state officials, and other non-Bureau personnel. These letters varied in nature from complaints to applications for jobs in the Bureau. Because the assistant adjutant general handled much of the mail for the Assistant Commissioner's office, it was often addressed to him instead of to the Assistant Commissioner.

In a circular issued by Commissioner Howard in July 1865, the Assistant Commissioners were instructed to designate one officer in each state to serve as "general Superintendents of Schools." These officials were to "take cognizance of all that is being done to educate refugees and freedmen, secure proper protection to schools and teachers, promote method and efficiency, correspond with the benevolent agencies which are supplying his field, and aid the Assistant Commissioner in making his required reports." In October 1865, a degree of centralized control was established over Bureau educational activities in the states when Rev. John W. Alvord was appointed Inspector of Finances and Schools. In January 1867, Alvord was divested of his financial responsibilities, and he was appointed General Superintendent of Education.

An act of Congress, approved July 25, 1868 (15 Stat. 193), ordered that the Commissioner of the Bureau "shall, on the first day of January next, cause the said bureau to be withdrawn from the several States within which said bureau has acted and its operation shall be discontinued." Consequently, in early 1869, with the exception of the superintendents of education and the claims agents, the Assistant Commissioners and their subordinate officers were withdrawn from the states.

For the next year and a half the Bureau continued to pursue its education work and to process claims. In the summer of 1870, the superintendents of education were withdrawn from the states, and the headquarters staff was greatly reduced. From that time until the Bureau was abolished by an act of Congress approved June 10, 1872 (17 Stat. 366), effective June 30, 1872, the Bureau's functions related almost exclusively to the disposition of claims. The Bureau's records and remaining functions were then transferred to the Freedmen's Branch in the office of the Adjutant General. The records of this branch are among the Bureau's files.

Constrained by limited resources, Southern opposition, and the politics of Reconstruction, the Bureau faced an enormous challenge in its efforts to assist the freedmen and refugees. Its relief efforts, without question, saved thousands of southerners from starvation. Its attempts to assist freedmen to become self-sufficient, to provide public education, administer justice, and, to a lesser degree, to provide land, all worked with varying degrees of success to lessen the difficulties during the transition from slavery to freedom. One of the Bureau's greatest legacies is the body of records it created and received during the course of its operations. These records are arguably some of the most important documents available for the study of the Federal Government's policies, efforts to reconstruct the South, and Southern social history and genealogy.

The Freedmen's Bureau in Arkansas

The major activities of the Freedmen's Bureau in Arkansas and Missouri generally resembled those conducted in other states. The Bureau issued rations to both freedmen and white refugees, supervised labor contracts between planters and

freedmen, administered justice, worked with benevolent societies in the establishment of schools, and assisted freedmen in locating land.

To prevent widespread starvation and destitution in Arkansas and Missouri, the Freedmen's Bureau issued some 1,705,055 rations to both blacks and whites from June 1865 to September 1866. In May 1865, prior to the Bureau's relief efforts in the Arkansas district, the Federal Government had issued 75,097 rations to refugees and 46,845 to destitute freedmen. After late October 1865, the Bureau's ration-relief efforts were discontinued in Missouri. Because civil authorities in the Arkansas district failed to provide medical assistance to the "destitute and starving," the Bureau, with assistance from Northern societies, established asylums, hospitals, and various kinds of relief camps. By the fall of 1866, with two commissioned medical officers, contract physicians, and male and female attendants, the Bureau had treated more than 100 refugees and over 1,500 freedmen. In late October 1866, Assistant Commissioner John W. Sprague reported that Arkansas hospitals alone had given medical aid to 3,260 people, nearly 200 of them freedmen. By the end of June 1868, Bureau hospitals in Arkansas had treated four times as many patients as in previous years, and greatly curtailed the attacks of smallpox and cholera.[1]

The regulation of written labor contracts between planters and freedmen was a major concern of the Bureau in Arkansas. In Circular Number 16, issued October 26, 1865, Commissioner Sprague outlined the rules governing the free labor system in Arkansas. Sprague ordered that all contracts in the Arkansas district were to be in writing with the approval of a Bureau official. Labor agreements were not to exceed 1 year, and no fixed rates were to be established. A 10-cent fee paid by the planter was required for each laborer. Generally, men could earn $16 per month, women $10, and children $6. First-class laborers could earn $20 per month, and received room and board, medical attention, and other essentials. In some cases, freedmen worked for a share of the crop. Whatever the agreement, subordinate Bureau officers were required to keep a record of labor contacts that they approved and witnessed, and freedmen were free to seek employment where they wished. Bureau officials often encouraged freedmen to give special consideration to employers who offered schools for their children.[2]

In response to Commissioner Howard's orders of July 12, 1865, concerning the education of refugees and freedmen, Assistant Commissioner Sprague appointed William M. Colby as general superintendent of refugee and freedmen schools. Colby was instructed "to cooperate with the state authorities and if possible work out a general system of education for those classes." Colby faced a great deal of opposition from southern whites who felt that freedmen taught by "evil emissaries from the North" encouraged social equality, an idea that they vehemently opposed. In spite of

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[1] Thomas S. Staples, *Reconstruction in Arkansas, 1862–1874* (New York: 1923), pp. 205–207.
[2] House Ex. Doc. 70, 39th Cong., 1st Sess., Serial vol. 1256, pp. 77 and 255.

this bitter opposition, however, Bureau officials in Arkansas furnished buildings for schools, and sent agents throughout the district to advise freedmen about education. From November 1865 to September 1866, working with such groups as the Indiana Friends and the Western Department of the American Freedmen's Aid Commission, the Bureau paid more than 30 percent of the cost for instructing freedmen in the alphabet, arithmetic, geography, and writing. By the summer of 1868, there were more than 30 teachers and over 1,000 pupils attending some 27 day and night schools. Some 118 teachers were instructing over 1,800 students in 24 Sabbath schools.[3]

In January 1869, Bvt. Maj. Gen. Charles H. Smith, then Assistant Commissioner for Arkansas, reorganized the education branch into three districts, with an assistant superintendent for each, for the purpose of cooperating with State officials in the transfer of the Bureau schools to the State's system. William M. Colby, David C. Casey, and James T. Watson were appointed to these new positions. General Smith held the position of chief superintendent of education. The Assistant Commissioner's office was abolished in April 1869, and Commissioner Howard reappointed Colby as the superintendent of education on May 1, 1869. Colby held that position until July 1870. By that time the Bureau had turned over most of the schools to the State Board of Education.

When Commissioner Sprague established his headquarters in St. Louis, several benevolent societies had already begun work on the establishment of schools for freedmen in Missouri. In 1864, the American Missionary Society established a freedmen school at Warrensburg, and the Western Freedmen Aid Society (WFAC) assisted military officials in the education of freedmen at Benton Barracks. By the time disbursing officer Frederick A. Seely opened his office in Missouri in 1867, there were more than 1,000 students attending some 30 schools in St. Louis alone. Seely, however, did provide support and assistance to local groups in the construction of additional schools in St. Louis, Warrensburg, Kansas City, Westport, and Carondolet.[4]

Safeguarding rights and securing justice for freedmen was of paramount concern to the Freedmen's Bureau. Following the Civil War, several Southern states enacted a series of laws commonly known as "black codes," which restricted the rights and legal status of freedmen. Freedmen were often given harsh sentences for petty crimes and in some instances were unable to get their cases heard in state courts. In a circular issued by Commissioner Howard on May 30, 1865, Assistant Commissioners were directed to "adjudicate, either themselves or through officers of their appointment, all difficulties arising between negroes themselves, or between negroes and whites or Indians." In the Arkansas district, freedmen were tried in both provost

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[3] Thomas S. Staples, *Reconstruction in Arkansas,* pp. 207–210.
[4] Richard O. Curry, ed. *Radicalism, Racism, and Party Realignment: The Border States during Reconstruction* (Baltimore: John Hopkins Press, 1969), pp. 258–259.

courts and freedmen courts. Freedmen courts were used when Bureau officials determined that freedmen were being treated unjustly. A freedmen court consisted of a Bureau official and two citizens of a given county. The three-member court had jurisdiction over all matters involving labor disputes and other cases relating to freedmen and refugees that did not exceed $300, 30 days in prison, or a fine of $100. In October 1865, Sprague appointed civilian superintendents to administer justice, especially in instances where freedmen were denied the right to testify in courts. Superintendents were told to follow state court procedures and laws as long as the laws made "no distinctions on account of color." By summer 1866, despite continued allegations of mistreatment of freedmen, all cases except those relating to labor contracts were being handled by state courts or military authorities. In 1867, when reconstruction acts placed Arkansas under the fourth military district, both state and Bureau courts were put under military supervision.[5]

The Freedmen's Bureau in the Arkansas district sought, with limited success, to secure land for refugees and freedmen. It intended to establish freedmen on lands under its control that had been abandoned or confiscated. However, its efforts were nullified by President Andrew Johnson's Amnesty Proclamation of May 29, 1865, which provided pardons and the restoration of lands to Confederates who took an oath of allegiance to the Federal Government. To minimize the impact of Johnson's Proclamation, the Bureau required that refugees and freedmen occupying land under cultivation be allowed to remain on the land until crops were harvested or just compensation was rendered. It also required that existing lease agreements be honored until they expired and that refugees and freedmen would not be moved from the land until arrangements could be made for them elsewhere. There was no complete effort to restore lands to their original owners in Arkansas until the Freedmen's Bureau was withdrawn from the State.[6]

The Southern Homestead Act (14 Stat. 66), approved by Congress on June 21, 1866, made available for public settlement 46 million acres of public lands in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Nine million acres of this Federal land was located in Arkansas. Because the Act specifically prohibited discrimination against applicants due to race, it offered an opportunity for Arkansas freedmen and others to become landowners. Generally, the Freedmen's Bureau, through "locating agents," assisted interested freedmen in finding plots, and provided them with 1-month subsistence, free transportation to their prospective tracts of land, and seeds for the initial planting. Despite his concerns that a large percentage of the Arkansas land was worthless and that many freedmen who were under labor agreements for the year would not be able to take full advantage of the Southern Homestead Act, Assistant Commissioner Sprague hired Dr. W. W. Granger as locating agent for Arkansas freedmen. By early summer 1867, Granger had located 1.5 million acres of

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[5] House Ex. Doc. No. 11, 39th Cong., 1st Sess., Serial vol. 1255, p. 45; Staples, *Reconstruction in Arkansas, 1862–1874*, pp. 211–215.
[6] House Ex. Doc. 70, 39th Cong., 1st Sess., pp. 70–71.

land available for entry (application) and recommended more than 400,000 acres for settlement. By fall 1867, Granger reported that of the 243 tracts he had surveyed, freedmen had entered 116 of the 143 that were suitable for settlement. A total of 26,395 entries were made in Arkansas under the Southern Homestead Act during the 10 years of the Act's existence. Less than 11,000, however, were carried to completion. Of the approximately 250 freedmen who eventually made land entries, only 25 percent completed them. Whites made most of the entries in Arkansas, and many of the freedmen who sought land there came from Georgia.[7]

Records Description

These records consist of volumes and unbound records. The volumes reproduced in this microfilm publication were originally arranged by type of record and thereunder by volume number. No numbers were assigned to series consisting of single volumes. Years later, all volumes were arbitrarily assigned numbers by the Adjutant General's Office (AGO) of the War Department after the records came into its custody. In this microfilm publication, AGO numbers are shown in parentheses to aid in identifying the volumes. The National Archives assigned the volume numbers that are not in parentheses. In some volumes, particularly in indexes and alphabetical headings of registers, there are blank numbered pages that have not been filmed.

The volumes consist of letters and endorsements sent and received, press copies of letters sent, registers of letters received, letters and orders received, registers of freedmen issued rations, special orders and circulars issued, registers of bounty claimants, and monthly reports forwarded to the Assistant Commissioner. The unbound documents consist of letters and orders received, unregistered letters and narrative reports received, special orders and circulars issued, and general orders and circulars received. The unbound records also contain monthly reports; amnesty oaths; applications of freedmen for rations; and records relating to claims, court trials, property restoration, and homesteads.

List of Book Records of Officers

The single-volume list of book records of officers in the State of Arkansas (no date) is arranged by office, with records of the Assistant Commissioner first, followed alphabetically by locations of the subdistrict office. Included in the list of book records are the type of record in each book or volume, the dates of the volume, and

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[7] Paul A. Cimbala and Randall M. Miller, eds., *The Freedmen's Bureau and Reconstruction: Reconsiderations* (New York: Fordham University Press, 1999), pp. 73–77; see also Claude F. Oubre, *Forty Acres and a Mule: The Freedmen's Bureau and Black Land Ownership* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State Univ. Press, 1978), p. 109.

the volume number. Throughout this introductory material and in the Table of Contents, the AGO volume number appears in parentheses in the series descriptions of the records.

Offices of Staff Officers

CLAIMS DIVISION

The single volume of press copies of letters sent, April–November 1866 (25), is arranged chronologically and has a name index. The letters are to Bureau headquarters in Washington or to Bureau officers in Arkansas and relate to the processing of individual claims. The volume also contains orders sent to local citizens by the superintendent and agent at Little Rock, Arkansas, dated from April 1867 to April 1868.

Unbound letters and miscellaneous case papers, May–October 1866, are arranged chronologically.

CHIEF DISBURSING OFFICER AND CLAIMS AGENT

The five volumes of press copies of letters sent, January 1869–January 1872, 1 (38), 2 (39), 3 (40), 4 (41), and 5 (42), are arranged chronologically and there is a name index for each volume except 5 (42).

Unbound letters received, December 1868–December 1871, are arranged in four subseries. The letters dated December 1868–December 1869 are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the surname of the correspondent and thereunder chronologically; those for 1870 are in two chronological series, letters from Washington, DC, and letters from claimants or attorneys in Arkansas; those for 1871 are arranged in one chronological series. There is no register or finding aid for these letters.

The single-volume register of claimants, July1866–October 1871 (43), is arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname of soldier and thereunder chronologically by the date the claim was forwarded to Washington, DC. The entries at the end of the register are arranged chronologically rather than alphabetically.

The single-volume register of claimants, 1868–71 (44), is arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the surname of the claimant.

The single-volume register of claimants, February1868–October 1871 (113½), is arranged by the date the money relating to the claim was received in Washington, DC. This register gives only the date the payment was received by the disbursing officer, the name of the claimant, the amount of payment, and the date payment was received by the claimant.

Unbound miscellaneous records relating to accounting and disbursements, 1865–68, includes copies of letters sent (April 1868); monthly return of Bureau stores from the assistant quartermaster at St. Louis (September 1865); a quarterly statement of

articles received and expended in Dallas County (December 1866); specifications for a schoolhouse at Van Buren, Arkansas (no date); a contract for a schoolhouse at Batesville (December 1867); and an inventory and inspection report of the freedmen's hospital at Little Rock (January 1867).

Subordinate Field Offices

ARKADELPHIA (CLARK COUNTY)

The single volume of letters sent, letters and orders received, and endorsements sent and received, July 1865–January 1866 and October 1866–November 1868 (46), is arranged in three subseries: letters sent (July 1865–January 1866 and October 1866–July 1868); letters, orders, and endorsements received (December 1866–October 1868; and endorsements sent and received (December 1866–November 1868).

The single-volume register of complaints, August 1865–May 1868 (47), is arranged chronologically and contains primarily complaints of freedmen regarding assaults, thefts, or violations of contracts. The register also includes the decision rendered in each case.

The two volumes of labor contracts, July 1865–January 1868, 1 (49) and 2 (50), are arranged chronologically. There is a name index in each volume.

The single-volume register of marriages, 1865–67 (48), is arranged generally chronologically. Later entries are not chronological.

Unbound miscellaneous records, 1865–66, include affidavits, monthly reports of receipts and expenditures (1865), monthly report of condition of freedmen (August 1865), indentures of apprenticeship (1866), and circulars issued and received (1865).

AUGUSTA (WOODRUFF COUNTY)

The single volume of letters sent and endorsements sent, January–February 1867 (51), is arranged chronologically.

Unbound letters and orders received, November 1865–August 1866, are arranged chronologically.

The two volumes of registers of labor contracts, December 1865–September 1866 and January 1867–January 1868, 1 (52), and January–September 1866, 2 (53), are arranged by month. The entries in Volume 1 (52) include the name of the employer and employees and the rate or kind of compensation. The entries in volume 2 (53) contain the name of the employer and the number of freedmen he contracted to employ. Volume 1 (52) also contains fair copies of orders issued to local citizens by agent William Brian at Jacksonport (December 1867–January 1868). The orders direct the recipient to appear at the agent's office to answer freedmen complaints or enjoin planters and farmers from disposing of their crops until claims against them had been investigated and settled. Volume 2 (53) includes a few miscellaneous

entries relating to acts of violence committed against freedmen (September–October 1866)

Unbound fiscal and legal papers, 1865–66, are arranged by the type of record and include bonds, labor contracts, affidavits, and receipts for services rendered or goods produced.

BATESVILLE (INDEPENDENCE COUNTY)
The two volumes of letters sent, August 1866–December 1868, 1 (54) and 2 (55), are arranged chronologically. Volume 1 (54) was Capt. William Brian's letter book into which he copied his outgoing correspondence. (Brian was superintendent and agent at Batesville from July 1866 to February 1867.) Capt. Walter O. Lattimore, who succeeded Brian, copied his orders to local citizens in volume 1 (54) and his letters sent in volume 2 (55).

Unbound letters received, December 1865–December 1868, are arranged chronologically.

Unbound special orders and circulars, 1865–68, are arranged by type of issuance and thereunder chronologically. The orders and circulars were issued by the Office of the Assistant Commissioner for Arkansas and by the Upper White River District relating to the Batesville office.

Unbound monthly reports of persons and articles hired, May–December 1867, are arranged chronologically.

Unbound court writs, summons, and other legal papers, 1866–68, are arranged chronologically. The records include a list of justices of the peace and probate judges of Independence County (1867) and a list of persons in Searcy County disqualified to register to vote (no date).

Unbound contracts, specifications, and plans of a freedmen school, 1867, are arranged by type of record.

CAMDEN (OUCHITA COUNTY)
Union County was added to the jurisdiction of the Camden office in October 1866, and Calhoun County was added in October 1867.

Within each volume of the two volumes of letters sent and received, October 1865–August 1868, 1 (56) and 2 (58), the letters sent precede the letters received. Each subseries is arranged chronologically. Volume 1 (56) contains only brief abstracts of the first few letters sent and received rather than the entire texts.

Unbound letters received, July 1865–July 1868, are arranged chronologically, and there appears to be little duplication with the two volumes of letters received mentioned above.

Within the single volume of endorsements sent and received and special orders and circulars issued and received, July 1865–October 1868 (59), the endorsements (arranged chronologically) precede the special orders and circulars (arranged chronologically as one subseries). The endorsements are dated September 1865–July 1868, and the orders and circulars are dated July 1865–October 1866. The full texts of several of the letters to which the endorsements are commentaries are copied into the volume.

Unbound general and special orders, March 1866–June 1868, are arranged chronologically.

The single-volume register of labor contracts, 1867–68 (61), is arranged by year, thereunder by county, and thereunder numerically. The volume includes the name of employer and the number of black men, women, and children, male and female, employed.

The single-volume register of school children and register of attendance of school children, February–June 1867 (63), is arranged by type of register and thereunder chronologically. The first register gives the names of the parents and the name, sex, and ages of the pupils. The second register is a daily attendance record of pupils.

Unbound affidavits and depositions, January 1866–May 1868, are arranged chronologically.

The single-volume monthly statements of accounts current and register of complaints, July 1865–June 1868 (62), is arranged by type of record and thereunder chronologically. The accounts current are dated July 1865–March 1867, and the register of complaints is dated October 1867–June 1868. The register of complaints includes the name of the complainant, the person accused, the charge, and the decision made or action taken in the case. For September 1867 complaints, see pages 234 and 235 of volume 63 mentioned above.

Unbound fiscal papers of superintendents Lewis H. Carhart and Nathan Cole, July 1865–June 1866, are arranged chronologically and include monthly statements of accounts current and supporting vouchers.

LEWISBURG (CONWAY COUNTY)

The three volumes of letters sent, August 1866–March 1868, 1 (67), 2 (68), and 3 (69), are arranged chronologically. Volume 2 (68) contains two letters (dated February 19, 1867, and March 11, 1867), and neither is copied in volume 1 (67). Volume 2 (68) also contains miscellaneous quartermaster records of the Middle Military Division for 1864. Volume 3 (69) contains some loose documents that are copies of letters sent and drafts of memorandums and reports (March and July 1868).

Unbound letters sent, February–March 1866 and August 1867–December 1867, are arranged chronologically and are not duplicated in the three volumes of letters sent mentioned above.

The single-volume register of letters received and endorsements sent and received, December 1866–March 1868 (66), is primarily a register of letters received. The entries are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the surname of the correspondent and thereunder chronologically by the date of receipt. The entries are numbered consecutively by date of receipt regardless of alphabetic considerations. Some of the letters entered are copied in the single volume of letters received (65) mentioned below. Endorsements sent and received have been copied on 11 even-numbered pages (pages 4–22) in chronological order. This volume does not have an index.

The single volume of letters received, May 1866–March 1867 (65), is arranged chronologically and does not have a name index. Some of the letters for the period from December 1866 to March 1868 are registered in volume 66 mentioned above.

Unbound letters received, June 1866–October 1868, are arranged chronologically. Many of the letters are copied in volume 65 of letters received, and many of the endorsements are copied in volume 66 of letters received.

The single-volume special orders of the Assistant Commissioner for Arkansas, May 1866–April 1867 (70), is arranged chronologically. On the last page of this volume, Captain Morgan (superintendent and agent for Lewisburg, Arkansas) listed the six duties of the office.

The single-volume labor contracts, amnesty oaths, and marriage certificates, January 1866–January 1867 (72), is arranged chronologically regardless of type of record.

Unbound oaths of amnesty dated February 1866 (6 items) are arranged and numbered in chronological order. The oaths of amnesty are the originals, and the texts were copied into volume 72 mentioned above.

Unbound affidavits, petitions, and labor contracts, 1866–67, are arranged by type of record.

DEVALL'S BLUFF (PRAIRIE COUNTY)

That part of Monroe County west of White River was under the jurisdiction of the Devall's Bluff agent. Woodruff County was added in October 1867.

The single-volume register of letters received, October 1865–October 1868 (73), is arranged by type of record and thereunder chronologically.

The two volumes of registers of labor contracts, January 1865–July 1868, 1 (75) and 2 (74), are arranged in chronological order. Volume 1 (75) also includes a register

of passes issued for railroad and river travel, March–May 1865. Volume 2 (74) includes six endorsements sent (May–July 1868), and a list of indentures (January–February 1867).

Unbound reports of persons and articles hired, orders and circulars received, and accounts current, November 1865–October 1867, are arranged by type of record and chronologically.

FORT SMITH (SEBASTIAN COUNTY)
The two volumes of letters sent and received, March 1866–May 1868, 1 (76) and 2 (77), are arranged chronologically, and Volume 1 (76) has a list of contents. For a list of contents of the time span October 1866–April 1867 of Volume 1 (77), see the single-volume register of labor contracts 1 (78) listed below. The letters received are dated March 1866–April 1867 and August–October 1867.

The unbound letters received, March 1866–October 1868, are arranged chronologically. Agents Thomas Abel (March–May 1866), Sebastian Geisreiter (May–August 1866), and Charles Banzaf (August 1866–May 1867 and August–October 1867) copied their letters received into Volumes 1 (76) and 2 (77). The other agents did not.

The single-volume register of labor contracts, March 1866–February 1867 1 (78), is arranged chronologically. This volume also includes a list of part of the contents (communications) in Volume 2 (77) for October 1866–April 1867 and a register of fees collected (August–November 1866).

The single-volume register of applications for restoration of property, register of marriages, and register of persons drawing rations, 1865–67 (80), is arranged by type of register and thereunder chronologically. The register of applications for restoration of property is dated November 1865–August 1866; the register of marriages is dated November 1865–February 1867; and the register of persons drawing rations is dated May–July 1867.

The two volumes of registers of refugees issued rations, January 1865–June 1866, 1 (81) and 2 (82), are arranged chronologically. The registers give the name of the person, the number of rations issued, the cause of destitution, and other pertinent remarks. Pasted on many of the pages of Volume 1 (81) are applications for rations from white refugees dated May–June 1866.

The single-volume register of freedmen and refugees issued rations, March–May 1866 (83), is arranged chronologically. The register gives the name of the person drawing rations; date issued; the number of rations issued; county of residence; and such descriptive information as "widow, "blind man," freedman," or "orphan boy."

The single-volume register of rebel property in Scott, Sebastian, and Crawford Counties subject to confiscation (79) [no dates], is arranged by county and has a

name index of owners of the property. Included are names of witnesses and owner, location, and description and value of the property. Frequent notations indicate degree of sympathy and nature of participation of the owner in the service of the Confederate States of America and, if known, his present whereabouts.

Unbound miscellaneous records, 1865–67, are arranged by type of record and thereunder chronologically. Included are retained copies of receipts for clothing (January–October 1867), monthly returns of quartermaster stores (October 1866–October 1867), abstracts of articles purchased (November 1866–March 1867), rations reports (April–June 1867), reports of destitute soldiers treated at Fort Smith Hospital (August–October 1867), orders received restoring property (October 1865–June 1866), applications for rations (July–August 1866), miscellaneous court papers and school reports (May–July 1867), and reports of persons and articles hired (August–December 1866).

HAMBURG (ASHLEY COUNTY)
In September 1868, the subdistrict field office at Hamburg was moved to Fountain Hill, Arkansas.

The single volume of letters sent, July 1866–July 1868 (87), is arranged chronologically.

The single-volume register of letters received, orders issued to local citizens, and monthly reports of operations, 1867–1868 (86), is arranged by type of record. The entries in the register (February 1867–December 1868) are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname of correspondent and thereunder generally by date of receipt. The orders issued to local citizens are dated March 1867–January 1868, and the monthly reports of operations are dated January 1867–July 1868.

Unbound letters received, March 1866–December 1868, are arranged chronologically. The letters received by agents Isaiah S. Taylor and George Towle (March 1866–July 1868) have been entered in Volume 86 mentioned above and are numbered in chronological order.

The two volumes of registers of complaints, April 1866–July 1868, 1 (88) and 2 (89), are arranged chronologically. Volume 1 (88) also includes a register of contracts sent from Hamburg (1866) and a register of marriages (1866). Volume 2 (89) contains four letters sent from Hamburg (April 1867 and February 1868), and a register of rations issued at Monticello, Arkansas (1865–66).

The single-volume register of contracts, 1867 (169), is arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the surname of the employer.

Unbound miscellaneous records, September 1866–July 1868, include rosters, indentures, retained copies of monthly accounts and land reports, monthly returns of quartermaster stores, and court papers.

HAMPTON (CALHOUN COUNTY)
In October 1867, Calhoun County was added to the jurisdiction of the agent at Camden.

The single volume of letters sent and register of letters received, February–August 1867 (85), is arranged by type of record and thereunder chronologically.

Unbound miscellaneous records, December 1865–January 1867, include contracts, affidavits, court papers, and one letter received (January 1866).

HELENA (PHILLIPS COUNTY)
Unbound copies of reports, 1864–67, are arranged by type of report. Included are monthly reports of freedmen, reports of refugees and freedmen receiving rations, and reports of deeds.

The single-volume register of claimants, October 1869–June 1871 (90), is arranged chronologically by date vouchers were received. The register gives the name of claimant, the date vouchers were received, the company and regiment of the soldier, the amount due the claimant, the date the vouchers were signed and returned, the date money was received from Washington, the date the money was paid to the claimant, and by whom the claimant was identified.

JACKSONPORT (UPPER WHITE RIVER DISTRICT)
The single volume of letters sent, January 1866–March 1867 (95), is arranged chronologically.

The two volumes of letters received, March 1866–February 1867, 1 (91) and 2 (92), are arranged chronologically.

Unbound letters received, May 1866–March 1867, are arranged chronologically, and some of the letters are copied in volumes 1 (91) and 2 (92).

The single volume of circular letters issued, April 1866–January 1867 (99), is arranged chronologically.

Unbound court papers and vouchers, 1866–67, are arranged by type of record.

The two-volume register of contracts and accounting records of Capt. W. W. Willis, superintendent of freedmen, mouth of the White River and St. Charles, is dated May–June 1865, 1 (132) and 2 (133). Volume 1 (132) contains the register of contracts and a list of freedpeople in the camp. Volume 2 (133) shows not only the money received and expended by Willis, but also that it was credited to the freedmen.

JACKSONPORT (JACKSON COUNTY)

The three volumes of letters sent, July 1865–May 1868, 1 (94), 2 (96), and 3 (97), are arranged chronologically. Volume 2 (96) also contains a register of funds received from contracts and other sources dated August 1865–April 1866 and memorandums relating to settlements dated August 1866.

Unbound press copies of letters sent, August–September 1866, are arranged chronologically and were not copied in Volume 1 (94) of the letters sent mentioned above.

The single-volume register of letters received, March 1867–July 1868 (93), is arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the surname of the correspondent and thereunder arranged in chronological order and numbered sequentially. The volume has a name index.

Unbound letters received, January 1867–July 1868, are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the surname of the correspondent and thereunder arranged in chronological order and numbered sequentially. The letters are registered in Volume 93 mentioned above.

Unbound unregistered letters and orders received, August 1865–August 1868, are arranged chronologically.

The single volume of special orders, circular letters, and letters of instruction received, April 1866–January 1867 (98), is arranged chronologically.

Unbound letters sent, reports, affidavits, and court papers, August 1865–January 1867, are arranged by type of record. The letters sent are dated August–September 1865 and May 1866 and are partially duplicated in Volume 1 (94) of the letters sent.

The single-volume register of contracts and register of marriages, 1865–68 (101), is arranged by type of register. The register of contracts is dated August 1865–February 1867 and is arranged chronologically. Interfiled with the contracts issued at Jacksonport are registers of contracts made at Batesville, Augusta, Franklin, and Powhattan in September 1865. The register of marriages is dated November 1865–August 1868 and is arranged chronologically with the exception of November 1865–July 1866, which follows July 1866–August 1868.

The single-volume register of complaints, January 1866–August 1868 (100), is arranged chronologically. The volume also contains reports of receipts and expenditures by the provost marshal at Jacksonport (under Department of Arkansas, May–October 1865).

LAKE VILLAGE AND LUNA LANDING (CHICOT COUNTY)
This office was located at Columbia in 1868.

The two volumes of letters sent, 1 (103) and 2 (106), cover the period July 1866–June 1868. The letters within each volume are arranged chronologically. Volume 1 (103) is dated January–December 1866 and July 1867–June 1868. Volume 2 (106) is dated January–July 1867. There is a name index for the 1866 letters in Volume 1 (103). The letters for 1866 include both letters sent and received.

The single-volume register of letters received, January 1867–February 1868 (102), is arranged chronologically. The volume also includes a few endorsements and correspondence dated November 1867 relating to a black pauper named Daniel Cooper.

Unbound unregistered letters and orders received, January 1867–January 1868, are arranged by type of record and thereunder chronologically.

The single-volume register of contracts and register of major landholders, April 1867–August 1868 (104), is arranged by type of register. The register of contracts is arranged chronologically. The register of landholders is arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the surname of the landholder and consists of the name of the person and the agent's remarks or opinions concerning him.

The two volumes of accounting books of Fawnwood Plantation, 1 (171) and 2 (105), cover the period 1865–67. Volume 1 (171) is dated 1865–67, and Volume 2 (105) is dated 1867. The volumes consist largely of lists of goods given to employees and presumably deducted from their wages.

LEWISVILLE (LAFAYETTE COUNTY)
The single volume of press copies of letters sent, November 1866–July 1868 (109), is arranged chronologically and has a name index.

Unbound letters sent, July–September 1867, are arranged chronologically. They are not duplicated in Volume 109.

The single volume of endorsements sent and received, June 1867–March 1868 (107), is arranged chronologically and has an incomplete name index.

The single-volume register of letters received, July 1867–January 1868 (108), is arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the surname of the correspondent and thereunder chronologically and has an incomplete name index.

Unbound letters received, July–December 1867, are arranged according to their entry in Volume 108.

Unbound unregistered letters received, October 1866–December 1868, are arranged chronologically.

The single-volume register of complaints, July–November 1867 (110), is arranged chronologically.

Unbound miscellaneous records dated September 1866–February 1868 include retained copies of narrative reports, orders received, affidavits, and court papers.

LITTLE ROCK (PULASKI COUNTY)
The single-volume register of press copies of letters sent, January 1867–April 1868 (112), is arranged chronologically.

The single-volume register of letters received and endorsements received and sent, April 1867–October 1868 (111), is arranged chronologically. The last entry in the volume is dated October 29, 1868.

Unbound letters and orders received, December 1865–October 1868, are arranged chronologically.

The single-volume register of claimants, April 1866–May 1868 (113), is arranged chronologically by the date the claim was received. The register includes name, address, and company of claimant; nature of claim; and date claim was forwarded. The claims relate to pension, bounty, and pay arrearages.

The single-volume register of marriages, 1864–66 (121), is arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the surname of the husband.

The single-volume register of freedmen employed on plantations, 1865–66 (120), is arranged by name of employer and has a name index of employers.

The three volumes of employment registers, 1 (116), 2 (117), and 3 (118), cover the period 1864–65. Most of these records were created before the establishment of the Bureau. Volume 1 (116) is primarily a register of employed blacks. It also contains many miscellaneous series such as a list of freedpeople at the mouth of the White River (February 1, 1864), accounting records, a register of deaths at Freedmen's Home Farm (June–July 1864), and a register of passes issued to freedpeople. Volume 2 (117) is a register of employees of freedmen and is arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the surname of the employer (January–February 1865). Volume 3 (118) is a register of employed freedmen and is arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the surname of the freedman. This volume is dated August–November, but there is no indication of the exact year, although it is probably 1865.

The single-volume of miscellaneous registers and memorandums (114) covers the period 1864–65. Included in the volume are registers of rations issued, a register of

transportation furnished to refugees and freedmen, and memorandums relating to complaints.

Unbound leases, miscellaneous court papers, and reports, 1865–68, are arranged by type of record. Included are land reports (August and September 1866, and January 1868); reports of destitute soldiers treated at a Little Rock hospital (January–February 1867); a roster (July 1865); and accounts current (February–September 1865).

The single volume of miscellaneous registers relating to Home Farm at Little Rock (115) covers the period January 1865–February 1866. Included in the volume are accounting records, lists of people in camp, and registers of rations issued.

The single volume of miscellaneous accounting records of Home Farm, November 1864–February 1865 (119), is arranged by name of freedman and has a name index.

LITTLE ROCK (SUPERINTENDENT OF FREEDMEN)
The single volume of letters sent and circulars issued, January–April 1864, October–November 1864, May 1865, and July 1865 (36), is arranged chronologically. The volume also includes an unidentified accounting record.

Unbound letters and orders received, January 1864–September 1865, are arranged by type of record and thereunder chronologically.

The single-volume special orders issued, January 1864–October 1865 (37), is arranged chronologically and has a name index.

Unbound narrative school reports from teachers and superintendents of freedmen's schools, December 1864–June 1865, are arranged chronologically. The reports are from teachers and from Joel Grant, superintendent of freedmen's schools at Little Rock, and Lovejoy Johnson, superintendent of freedmen's schools at Helena.

Unbound retained copies of reports, reports received, and miscellaneous papers, 1864–65, are arranged by type of record. The retained copies of reports include narrative reports (March–August 1865) and ration reports (July and September 1865). The reports received from subordinates are dated July 1864–September 1865. Many of the miscellaneous papers relate to the Home Farm.

MADISON (ST. FRANCIS)
The single volume of letters sent, April 1867–March 1868 (123), is arranged chronologically.

The single-volume register of letters received, April–August 1867 (122), is arranged chronologically and includes a register of marriages (May and August 1867) and names and addresses of claimants (1867).

Unbound letters and orders received, March 1867–October 1868, are arranged chronologically. A few of the letters are entered in Volume 122.

The single-volume register of complaints, June 1867–April 1868 (124), is arranged chronologically and includes a register of contracts (May–November 1866) and copies of certificates of marriages (June–November 1866).

The single-volume register of contracts, April 1867–July 1868 (125), is arranged chronologically.

Unbound narrative reports, affidavits, and court papers, 1867–68, are arranged by type of record.

MAGNOLIA (COLUMBIA COUNTY)
Unbound letters received and affidavits of freedmen, May 1866–April 1867, are arranged by type of record.

MARION (CRITTENDEN COUNTY)
The three volumes of letters and endorsements sent, June 1867–December 1868, 1 (127), 2 (128), and 3 (129), are arranged chronologically and there is a list of contents in each volume.

The single-volume register of letters received, January 1867–October 1868 (126), is arranged chronologically and has a list of contents.

The single unbound letter received is dated October 21,1867.

MONTICELLO (SOUTH EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS)
The single volume of letters sent, July 1865–December 1866 (131), is arranged chronologically. The volume also contains special orders issued (August 1865–December 1866, circular letters (July 1865 and May and July 1866), and summaries of cases tried (May 1866).

The single volume of letters received, August 1865–December 1866 (130), is arranged chronologically.

Unbound letters received, October 1865–January 1867, are arranged chronologically.

The single-volume register of contracts for Bradley County, January–March 1866 (168), consists of two registers, both of which seem to have the same title. One register is arranged chronologically by date the contract was filed. The second register is arranged numerically by the number of the contract. This volume also contains a list of indigent families, most of who seem to be soldiers' families.

Unbound court papers and reports are arranged by type of record. The records include land reports (October 1865 and January 1866) and financial reports (August–September 1865).

MONTICELLO (DREW COUNTY)
Unbound reports, 1866, include accounts current, land reports, and ration reports.

NAPOLEON (DESHA COUNTY)
The two volumes of letters sent, April 1867–December 1868, 1 (135) and 2 (136), are arranged chronologically.

The single-volume register of letters received, April 1867–February 1868 (134), is arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the surname of the correspondent and thereunder chronologically.

Unbound letters and orders received, June 1866–March 1868, are arranged chronologically, and some of the letters are entered in Volume (134).

The single-volume register of contracts and register of complaints, 1866–67 (137), is arranged by type of register. The register of contracts is dated December 1866–April 1867, and the register of complaints is dated February–November 1867.

Unbound miscellaneous records cover the period January 1866–January 1868. The records include marriage certificates, census reports, narrative reports, accounts, court papers, and a census report of freedpeople at the mouth of the Red River (1864).

OSCEOLA (MISSISSIPPI COUNTY)
The single volume of letters sent and register of claims, marriages, contracts, and indentures, 1866–68 (138), is arranged by type of record. The letters sent are dated July 1868; the register of claims, October 1866; the register of marriages, April 1866–February 1867; the register of contracts, January–October 1867; and the register of indentures, May–June 1866.

The single-volume register of complaints, March 1867–June 1868 (139), is arranged chronologically.

OZARK
The single-volume register of destitute citizens of Franklin and Johnson counties issued rations, June 1866 (140), is arranged by county and thereunder numerically. The register gives name, color, and cause of destitution. Rations were issued in compliance with Special Order 54 of the Assistant Commissioner.

PARACLIFTA (SEVIER COUNTY)
In April 1867, the office was moved from Paraclifta to Rocky Comfort. The officer was also responsible for Bureau affairs in Little River County.

The single volume of letters sent and register of letters received, December 1866–December 1867 (177), is arranged by type of record and thereunder chronologically. The letters sent are dated December 1866–December 1867, and the register of letters received is dated June–October 1867. Also included is a list of contents of letters sent.

The single volume of letters sent, December 1867–October 1868 (179), is arranged chronologically.

The single-volume register of letters received and endorsements sent, November 1867– May 1868 (178), is arranged chronologically.

The single volume of orders issued to local citizens, April 1867–March 1868 (180), is arranged chronologically and includes special and general orders.

The single-volume register of marriages, copies of indentures, and register of purchase vouchers issued, 1865–67 (181), is arranged by type of record. The register of marriages is dated December 1865; the indentures, December 1865–January 1866 and January–February 1867; and the register of vouchers, June–August 1867.

The single-volume register of complaints dated January 1867–July 1868 (176) is arranged chronologically and includes a list of employed freedmen (July–December 1865).

The single-volume register of employers and employees (182) [no dates] is arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the surname of the employee or employer. The register gives the name of the employer or employee and number of contract.

PINE BLUFF (ARKANSAS RIVER DISTRICT)
The Arkansas River District comprised the counties of Pulaski, Prairie, Jefferson, and Arkansas, and parts of the counties of Monroe and Desha.

The single volume of letters sent, July 1866–May 1867 (144), is arranged chronologically. The volume also contains letters sent by the agent at Pine Bluff (March–May 1867).

Unbound letters and orders received, July 1866–February 1867, is arranged chronologically.

Unbound reports of persons and articles hired, July 1866–February 1867, is arranged chronologically.

PINE BLUFF (JEFFERSON COUNTY)
The two volumes of press copies of letters sent span the period January 1866–July 1868. Both are arranged chronologically, and each volume has a name index. Volume 1 (143) includes letters from January to May 1866 and from January to

July 1868. Volume 2 (145) includes letters from May 1867 to December 1867.

The single volume of letters sent, August–December 1868 (146), is arranged chronologically. The volume also contains a register of contracts, February–April 1864 and January–June 1865, and records of the contraband camp at Pine Bluff, February–September 1866, which include lists of persons and employees at the camp and the amount of rations issued.

The two volumes of endorsements sent cover the period January 1866–December 1868, with gaps. Volume 1 (142) is dated January–September 1866 and July–December 1868 and is arranged chronologically. Volume 2 (141) is dated September 1866–July 1868. From March to May 1867, the endorsements are arranged chronologically and include some endorsements received. From May 1867 to July 1868, the entries are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the surname of the correspondent and thereunder chronologically, and include abstracts of letters that were filed among the letters received and not sent from the office. Volume 2 (141) also includes endorsements sent by the general superintendent of the Arkansas River District at Pine Bluff for September 1866–March 1867.

Unbound letters received, March–October 1866 and March 1867–December 1868, are arranged chronologically. A few of the letters are entered in Volume 2 (141).

The single volume of special orders received, October 1865–July 1868 (147), is arranged chronologically and is incomplete with many gaps.

The single-volume register of marriages, March 1864–July 1865 (151), is arranged chronologically and some of the names in the register are also in Volume (150) mentioned below.

The single volume of copies of marriage certificates, December 1864–June 1867 (150), is arranged chronologically and has a name index. The last part of the volume, September 1866–June 1867, is a register of marriages rather than copies of the certificates.

The single-volume register of abandoned property, 1864–67 (149), is arranged by name of former owner and has a name index. The register gives a description and location of the property and notations as to when it was restored and by what authority. Many entries include accounts of rent received.

The single-volume "Record and Account Book" of Mrs. Bayner's Plantation covers the period February–December 1867 (148). The records include a daily time and attendance report for all persons working on the plantation, daily reports of weather and work completed, and reports of amount of cotton picked and shipped.

Unbound miscellaneous records, 1864–68, are arranged by type of record. The records include special orders and circulars received (October 1865–November

1868), retained copies of ration reports (March 1866–December 1867), ration reports of patients in the freedmen's hospital (June–November 1867), land reports (March 1866–March 1868), and rosters (March–October 1866). There are also school reports (December 1866–July 1867), reports of persons and articles hired (July 1866–November 1867), estimates of funds (May–September 1866), and court papers and bills of lading (1864, 1866–68). In addition, there are accounting records dating from December 1864 that were created by S. W. Mallory as superintendent of freedmen for the Freedmen's Department.

PRINCETON (DALLAS COUNTY)
The single volume of contracts and monthly statements of property, 1866–68 (170), is arranged by type of record. The contracts are arranged by year (1866 and 1867) and thereunder numerically. There is a name index to the contracts. The monthly statements are arranged chronologically (July 1867–December 1868).

SOUTH BEND (ARKANSAS COUNTY)
From 1866 until February 1867, the office was at Auburn; from February to July 1867, at Fair Dale; and from July 1867 to July 1868, at South Bend.

The single volume of letters sent, February 1867–July 1868 (153), is arranged chronologically.

The single-volume register of letters received covers the period January–August 1867 and November 1867–March 1868 (152). From January to August 1867, the entries are arranged and numbered in chronological order. From November 1867 to March 1868, they are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the surname of the correspondent, and thereunder arranged and numbered in chronological order. The entries frequently include copies of endorsements sent and received.

Unbound letters received, February–August 1867, are arranged and numbered according to their entry in Volume 152. There are also some unregistered letters (November 1867–May 1868).

The single volume of orders issued to local citizens, October 1867–July 1868 (154), is arranged chronologically. The volume also contains a register of claimants (1866–67) arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the surname of the soldier, but there are entries only for A–D.

The single volume of proceedings of cases dated November 1867–April 1868 (155) is arranged chronologically.

UNION (FULTON COUNTY)
The single volume of letters sent and register of letters received, January 1867–September 1868 (156), is arranged by letters sent and register of letters received and thereunder chronologically. There are indexes for both the letters sent and for the registers.

Unbound letters sent and retained copies of reports, June 1866–June 1867, are arranged by type of record. Most of the letters and reports are copied in Volume 156.

The single volume of letters sent, October–December 1868 (158), is arranged chronologically and has a name index.

The single-volume register of letters received, October–December 1868 (157), is arranged chronologically and has a name index.

Unbound letters and orders received, March 1866–November 1868, are arranged chronologically. Most are entered in Volume 157.

WASHINGTON (SOUTH WEST DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS)
The single volume of letters sent, January 1865–March 1867 (161), is arranged chronologically.

The single volume of letters received at the South West District, September 1866–March 1867 (159), is arranged chronologically. The volume also contains a register of letters received by the agent at Washington (Hemstead County), for the period March 1867–September 1868, arranged chronologically.

Unbound letters received, September 1866–February 1867, are arranged chronologically. Some of the letters are copied in Volume 159.

The single volume of special orders received at the South West District, November 1865–December 1867 (164), is arranged chronologically. This volume also contains orders received by the agent at Washington (Hemstead County), for the period March–December 1867.

Unbound special orders and circulars received, November 1865–February 1867, are arranged chronologically. Some of the orders are copied in Volume 164.

WASHINGTON (HEMSTEAD COUNTY)
The single volume of letters sent and orders issued to local citizens, February 1866–March 1867 (160), is arranged chronologically. The section of letters sent covers the period February–October 1866, and that of orders issued to local citizens covers the period October 1866–March 1867.

The two volumes of letters sent, 1 (162) and 2 (163), cover the period March 1867–August 1868. The letters in both volumes are arranged chronologically. Volume 1 (162) is dated March 1867–August 1868, and Volume 2 (163) is dated November 1867–January 1868. There are only a few letters in Volume 2 (163); all are addressed to officials in Hemstead County and do not appear to be duplicated in Volume 1 (162).

Unbound letters and orders received, April 1867–September 1868, are arranged chronologically. Some letters are entered in Volume (159), and some orders are entered in Volume 164.

The single-volume register of contracts, November 1866–September 1867 (165), is arranged numerically.

The single-volume register of complaints, August 1866–February 1868 (166), is arranged chronologically.

The single volume of marriage certificates, October 1865–February 1867 (167), is arranged chronologically. The volume also contains a register of indentures (December 1865) and an undated list of people delinquent in payments to workers.

Unbound accounts current, marriage certificates, court papers, and teachers' school reports, 1865–68, are arranged by type of record. The accounts current are dated July–September 1865. Some of the marriage certificates are copied in volume 167.

Related Records

In the same record group, RG 105, and related to records of the Bureau's field offices for Arkansas, are those of the Bureau headquarters in Washington, DC, and previously microfilmed records of the Assistant Commissioner and the superintendent of education for Arkansas. These record series are available in the following National Archives microfilm publications:

M742, ***Selected Series of Records Issued by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,*** **1865–1872**

M752, ***Registers and Letters Received by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865–1872***

M803, ***Records of the Education Division of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865–1871***

M979, ***Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Arkansas, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865–1869***

M980, ***Records of the Superintendent of Education for the State of Arkansas, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865–1871***

M1875, ***Marriage Records of the Office of the Commissioner, Washington Headquarters of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1861–1869***

Records in other record groups supplement those of the Assistant Commissioner. In Records of United States Army Continental Commands, 1821–1920, RG 393, are records of the military district that included Arkansas and Missouri. Records relating to employment and welfare of freedmen and abandoned property before the establishment of the Bureau are among Records of Civil War Special Agencies of the Treasury Department, RG 366. The records of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company, 1865–1874, in Records of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, RG 101, contain information relating to former slaves who maintained accounts with the bank branches at Arkansas and Missouri.

There have been numerous books, articles, and dissertations published about the Freedmen's Bureau and its operations. For general background, see Paul S. Pierce, *The Freedmen's Bureau, A Chapter in the History of Reconstruction* (Iowa City, IA: 1904); George R. Bentley, *A History of the Freedmen's Bureau* (Philadelphia, PA: 1955); and Paul A. Cimbala and Randall M. Miller, eds., *The Freedmen's Bureau and Reconstruction: Reconsiderations* (New York: 1999), especially pages 93–118. For a history of the Freedmen's Bureau and Reconstruction in Arkansas, see Thomas S. Staples, *Reconstruction in Arkansas, 1862–1874* (New York, 1923).

Several books written about Commissioner Oliver Otis Howard include O. O. Howard, *Autobiography of Oliver Otis Howard* (New York, NY: 1907); John Alcott Carpenter, *Sword and Olive Branch: Oliver Otis Howard* (Pittsburgh, PA: 1964); and William S. McFeely, *Yankee Stepfather: O. O. Howard and the Freedmen* (New Haven, CT: 1968).

CONTENTS

ROLL	DESCRIPTION	DATES
1	**List of Book Records**	
	State of Arkansas	
	1 Volume	
	OFFICES OF STAFF OFFICERS	
	Claims Division	
	Press Copies of Letters Sent	
	Volume (25)*	Apr.–Nov. 1866
	Letters and Miscellaneous Case Papers	May–Oct. 1866
	Chief Disbursing Officer and Claims Agent	
	Press Copies of Letters Sent	
	Volume 1 (38)	Jan.–Sept. 1869
2	Press Copies of Letters Sent	
	Volume 2 (39)	Sept 1869–Feb. 1870
	Volume 3 (40)	Feb.–Oct. 1870
	Volume 4 (41)	Oct. 1870–May 1871
	Volume 5 (42)	May 1871–Jan. 1872
3	Letters Received	
	A–W	Dec. 1868–Dec. 1869
4	Letters Received	Jan.–Dec. 1870
5	Letters Received	Jan. 1870–Dec. 1871
6	Register of Claimants	
	Volume (43)	July 1866–Oct. 1871
	Register of Claimants	
	Volume (44)	1868–71
	Register of Claimants	
	Volume (113½)	Feb. 1868–Oct. 1871
	Miscellaneous Records Relating to Accounting and Disbursements	1865–68

* Volume Numbers assigned by the Adjutant General's Office (AGO) are shown in parentheses to assist in identifying the volumes.

ROLL	DESCRIPTION	DATES
6 (cont.)	**SUBORDINATE FIELD OFFICES**	
	Arkadelphia (Clark County)	
	Letters Sent, Letters and Orders Received, and Endorsements Sent and Received	
	Volume (46)	July 1865–Jan. 1866 and Oct.–1866–Nov. 1868
	Register of Complaints	
	Volume (47)	Aug. 1865–May 1868
	Registers of Labor Contracts	
	Volume 1 (49)	July 1865–Dec. 1866
	Volume 2 (50)	1867–Jan. 1868
	Register of Marriages	
	Volume (48)	1865–67
	Miscellaneous Records	1865–66
	Augusta (Woodruff County)	
	Letters and Endorsements Sent	
	Volume (51)	Jan.–Feb. 1867
	Letters and Orders Received	Nov. 1865–Aug. 1866
	Registers of Labor Contracts	
	Volume 1 (52)	Dec.–1865–Sept. 1866 and Jan. 1867–Jan. 1868
	Volume 2 (53)	Jan.–Sept. 1866
	Fiscal and Legal Papers	1865–66
	Batesville (Independence County)	
	Letters Sent	
	Volume 1(54)	Aug. 1866–Jan. 1867 and Feb. 1868
	Volume 2 (55)	Apr.–Dec. 1868
	Letters Received	Dec.–1865–Dec. 1868
	Special Orders and Circulars	1865–68
	Monthly Reports of Persons and Articles Hired	May–Dec. 1867
	Court Writs, Summons, and Other Legal Papers	1866–68
	Contracts, Specifications, and Plans of a Freedmen School	1867
7	**Camden (Ouchita County)**	
	Letters Sent and Received	
	Volume 1 (56)	Oct. 1865–June 1867
	Volume 2 (58)	June 1867–Aug. 1868
	Letters Received	July 1865–July 1868

ROLL	DESCRIPTION	DATES
7 (cont.)	Endorsements Sent and Received and Special Orders and Circulars Issued and Received	
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	General and Special Orders	Mar. 1866–June 1868
	Register of Labor Contracts	
	Volume (61)	1867–68
	Register of School Children and Register of Attendance of School Children	
	Volume (63)	Feb.–June 1867
	Affidavits and Depositions	Jan. 1866–May 1868
	Monthly Statements of Accounts Current and Register of Complaints	
	Volume (62)	July 1865–June 1868
	Fiscal Papers of Superintendents Carhart and Cole	July 1865–June 1866
	Lewisburg (Conway County)	
	Letters Sent	
	Volume 1 (67)	Aug. 1866–July 1867
	Volume 2 (68)	Feb. 19 and Mar. 11, 1867
	Volume 3 (69)	Aug. 1867–Mar. 1868
	Letters Sent	Feb.–Mar. 1866 and Aug. 1867–Dec. 1867
	Register of Letters Received and Endorsements Sent and Received	
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	Letters Received	
	Volume (65)	May 1866–Mar. 1867
	Letters Received	June 1866–Oct. 1868
	Special Orders of the Assistant Commissioner of Arkansas	
	Volume (70)	May 1866–Apr. 1867
	Labor Contracts, Amnesty Oaths, and Marriage Certificates	
	Volume (72)	Jan. 1866–Jan. 1867
	Oaths of Amnesty	Feb. 1866
	Affidavits, Petitions, and Labor Contracts	1866–67
8	**Devall's Bluff (Prairie County)**	
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	Volume (73)	Oct. 1865–Oct. 1868

ROLL	DESCRIPTION	DATES
8 (cont.)	Labor Contracts	
	Volume 1 (75)	Jan. 1865–July 1865
	Volume 2 (74)	Dec. 1865–July 1868
	Reports of Persons and Articles Hired, Orders and Circulars Received, and Accounts Current	Nov. 1865–Oct. 1867
	Fort Smith (Sebastian County)	
	Letters Sent and Received	
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	Volume 2 (77)	Oct. 1866–May 1868
	Letters Received	Mar. 1866–Oct. 1868
	Register of Labor Contracts	
	Volume (78)	Mar. 1866–Feb. 1867
	Register of Application for Restoration of Property, Register of Marriages, and Register of Persons Drawing Rations	
	Volume (80)	1865–67
9	Register of Refugees Issued Rations	
	Volume 1 (81)	Jan. 1865–June 1866
	Volume 2 (82)	Mar. 1865–July 1865
	Register of Freedmen and Refugees Issued Rations	
	Volume (83)	Mar.–May 1866
	Register of Rebel Property in Counties Subject to Confiscation	
	Volume (79)	No Dates
	Miscellaneous Records	1865–67
10	**Hamburg (Ashley County)**	
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	Register of Letters Received, Orders Issued to Local Citizens, and Monthly Reports of Operations	
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	Letters Received	Mar. 1866–Dec. 1868
	Register of Complaints	
	Volume 1 (88)	Apr. 1866–Nov. 1866
	Volume 2 (89)	Sept. 1865–July 1868
	Register of Contracts	
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	Miscellaneous Records	Sept. 1866–July 1868

ROLL	DESCRIPTION	DATES
11	**Hampton (Calhoun County)**	
	Letters Sent and Register of Letters Received	
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	Miscellaneous Records	Dec. 1865–Jan. 1867
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	Volume 1 (91)	Mar. 1866–Dec. 1866
	Volume 2 (92)	Dec. 1866–Feb. 1867
	Letters Received	May 1866–Mar. 1867
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	Jacksonport (Jackson County)	
	Letters Sent	
	Volume 1 (94)	July 1865–Nov. 1866
	Volume 2 (96)	Nov. 1866–Feb. 1867
	Volume 3 (97)	Mar. 1867–May 1868
	Press Copies of Letters Sent	Aug.–Sept. 1866
	Register of Letters Received	
	Volume (93)	Mar. 1867–July 1868
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12	Special Orders, Circular Letters, and Letters of Instruction Received	
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	Letters Sent, Reports, Affidavits, and Court Papers	Aug. 1865–Jan. 1867
	Register of Contracts and a Register of Marriages	
	Volume (101)	1865–68

ROLL	DESCRIPTION	DATES
12 (cont.)	Register of Complaints	
	Volume (100)	Jan. 1866–Aug. 1868
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	Volume 2 (106)	Jan.–July 1867
	Register of Letters Received	
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	Register of Contracts and Register of Major Landholders	
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	Accounting Books of Fawnwood Plantation	
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13	**Lewisville (Lafayette County)**	
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	Unregistered Letters Received	Oct. 1866–Dec. 1868
14	Register of Complaints	
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	Miscellaneous Records	Sept. 1866–Feb. 1868
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ROLL	DESCRIPTION	DATES
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	Miscellaneous Registers and Memorandums	
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	Miscellaneous Accounting Records of Home Farm	
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	Letters Sent and Circulars Issued	
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	Retained Copies of Reports, Reports Received, and Miscellaneous Papers	1864–65
	Madison (St. Francis County)	
	Letters Sent	
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	Register of Letters Received	
	Volume (122)	Apr.–Aug. 1867
	Letters and Orders Received	Mar. 1867–Oct. 1868
	Register of Complaints	
	Volume (124)	June 1867–Apr. 1868
	Register of Contracts	
	Volume (125)	Apr. 1867–July 1868
	Narrative Reports, Affidavits and Court Papers	1867–68
	Magnolia (Columbia County)	
	Letters Received and Affidavits of Freedmen	May 1866–Apr. 1867

ROLL	DESCRIPTION	DATES
17	**Marion (Crittenden County)**	
	Letters and Endorsements Sent	
	Volume 1 (127)	June 1867–Nov. 1867
	Volume 2 (128)	Nov. 1867–Jan. 1868
	Volume 3 (129)	Jan. 1868–Dec. 1868
	Register of Letters Received	
	Volume (126)	Jan. 1867–Oct. 1868
	Single Unbound Letter Received	Oct. 21, 1867
	Monticello (South Eastern District of Arkansas)	
	Letters Sent	
	Volume (131)	July 1865–Dec. 1866
	Letters Received	
	Volume (130)	Aug. 1865–Dec. 1866
	Letters Received	Oct. 1865–Jan. 1867
	Register of Contracts for Bradley County	
	Volume (168)	Jan.–Mar. 1866
	Court Papers and Reports	1865–66
	Monticello (Drew County)	
	Reports	1866
	Napoleon (Desha County)	
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18	Letters and Orders Received	June 1866–Mar. 1868
	Register of Contracts and Register of Complaints	
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	Letters Sent and Registers of Claims, Marriages, Contracts, and Indentures	
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	Ozark	
	Register of Destitute Citizens of Franklin and Johnson Counties Issued Rations	
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ROLL	DESCRIPTION	DATES
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	Register of Marriages, Copies of Indentures, and Register of Purchase Vouchers Issued Volume (181)	1865–67
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	Register of Employers and Employees Volume (182)	No Dates
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	Letters and Orders Received	July 1866–Feb. 1867
	Reports of Persons and Articles Hired	July 1866–Feb. 1867
	Pine Bluff (Jefferson County)	
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20	Letters Sent Volume (146)	1864, 1865, 1866, and 1868
	Endorsements Sent Volume 1 (142)	Jan. 1866–Dec. 1868
	Volume 2 (141)	Sept. 1866–July 1868
	Letters Received	Mar. 1866–Dec. 1868
	Special Orders Received Volume (147)	Oct. 1865–July 1868
21	Register of Marriages Volume (151)	Mar. 1864–July 1865
	Copies of Marriage Certificates Volume (150)	Dec. 1864–June 1867

ROLL	DESCRIPTION	DATES
21 (cont.)	Register of Abandoned Property Volume (149)	1864–67
	"Record of Account Book" of Mrs. Bayner's Plantation Volume (148)	Feb.–Dec. 1867
	Miscellaneous Records	1864–68
22	**Princeton (Dallas County)**	
	Contracts and Monthly Statements of Property Volume (170)	1866–68
	South Bend (Arkansas County)	
	Letters Sent Volume (153)	Feb. 1867–July 1868
	Register of Letters Received Volume (152)	Jan. 1867–Mar. 1868
	Letters Received	Feb.–Aug. 1867
	Orders Issued to Local Citizens Volume (154)	Oct. 1867–July 1868
	Proceedings of Cases Volume (155)	Nov. 1867–Apr. 1868
	Union (Fulton County)	
	Letters Sent and Register of Letters Received Volume (156)	Jan. 1867–Sept. 1868
	Letters Sent and Retained Copies of Reports	June 1866–June 1867
	Letters Sent Volume (158)	Oct.–Dec. 1868
	Register of Letters Received Volume (157)	Oct.–Dec. 1868
	Letters and Orders Received	Mar. 1866–Nov. 1868
	Washington (South West District of Arkansas)	
	Letters Sent Volume (161)	Jan. 1865–Mar. 1867
	Letters Received Volume (159)	Sept. 1866–Sept. 1868
23	Letters Received	Sept. 1866–Feb. 1867
	Special Orders Received Volume (164)	Nov. 1865–Dec. 1867
	Special Orders and Circulars Received	Nov. 1865–Feb. 1867
	Washington (Hemstead County)	
	Letters Sent and Orders Issued to Local Citizens Volume (160)	Feb. 1866–Mar. 1867

ROLL	DESCRIPTION	DATES
23 (cont.)	Letters Sent	
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	Volume 2 (163)	Nov. 1867–Jan. 1868
	Letters and Orders Received	Apr. 1867–Sept. 1868
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	Volume (165)	Nov. 1866–Sept. 1867
	Register of Complaints	
	Volume (166)	Aug. 1866–Feb. 1868
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	Volume (167)	Oct. 1865–Feb. 1867
	Accounts Current, Marriage Certificates, Court Papers, and Teachers' School Reports	1865–68

APPENDIX

This list provides the names and dates of service of known Freedmen's Bureau personnel at selected subordinate field offices in Arkansas. Additional information regarding persons assigned to various field offices might be found among the Bureau's Washington headquarters station books and rosters of military officers and civilians on duty in the states and other appointment-related records.

LOCATION	DATES
Arkadelphia (Clark County)	
SUPERINTENDENT AND AGENT	
William A. Stuart	July–Dec. 1865
William A. Britton	Dec. 1865–Oct. 1866
Anthony E. Babricht	Oct. 1866–Dec. 1868
Augusta (Woodruff County)	
SUPERINTENDENT AND AGENT	
John Thorp	Nov. 1865–Nov. 1866
Lt. Sebastian Geisreiter	Nov. 1866–Feb. 1867
Batesville (Independence County)	
SUPERINTENDENT AND AGENT	
Reuben Harplam	Dec. 1865–ca. June 1866
Capt. William Brian	July 1866–Feb. 1867
Capt. Walter O. Lattimore	Apr. 1867
Capt. Albert H. Andrews	Apr.–Nov. 1867
Lt. John Harold	Nov.–Dec. 1867
Capt. William J. Lyster	Dec. 1867–Dec. 1868
Camden (Ouchita County)	
SUPERINTENDENT AND AGENT	
Lewis H. Carhart	July 1865–June 1866
Nathan Cole	June–Oct. 1866
Joseph L. Thorp	Oct. 1866–July 1868
Devall's Bluff (Prairie County)	
SUPERINTENDENT AND AGENT	
Willis Davis	June 1865
William McCullough	July 1865–July 1866
Hiram Willis	July–Dec. 1866
William McCullough	Dec. 1866–Dec. 1868

Fort Smith (Sebastian County)
SUPERINTENDENT AND AGENT

Francis Springer	Oct. 1865–Mar. 1866
Thomas Abel	Mar.–May 1866
Sebastian Geisreiter	May–Aug. 1866
Charles Banzhaf	Aug. 1866–May 1867
Elihu G. Barker	May–Aug. 1867
Charles Banzhaf	Aug.–Oct. 1867
Pinkney Lugenbeel	Nov. 1867–Aug. 1868

Hamburg (Ashley County)
SUPERINTENDENT AND AGENT

Lt. Fred A. Tencate	Mar.–July 1866
Lt. Isaiah S. Taylor	July 1866–Oct. 1867
George Towle	Nov. 1867–July 1868
Sebastian Geisreiter	July–Dec. 1868

Hampton (Calhoun County)
SUPERINTENDENT AND AGENT

John Scroggins	Oct. 1865–Aug. 1867

Helena (Phillips County)
SUPERINTENDENT AND AGENT

H. Sweeney (superintendent of freedmen)	1864–65
H. Sweeney (superintendent)	1867
James T. Watson (claims agent)	1869–71

Jacksonport (Upper White River District)
GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

J. M. Bowler	Jan.–Mar. 1866
J. T. Watson	Mar. 1866–Mar. 1867

Jacksonport (Jackson County)
SUPERINTENDENT AND AGENT

Jonas Lindale (also provost marshal for the Department of Arkansas)	May–Aug. 1865
William Tisdale (also provost marshal for the Department of Arkansas)	Aug.–Oct. 1865
J. M. Bowler	Oct.–Dec. 1865
Robert Anderson	Dec. 1865–Mar. 1866
A. S. Dyer	Mar. 1866–Feb. 1867
William Brian	Feb. 1867–Dec. 1868

Lake Village and Luna Landing (Chicot County)
SUPERINTENDENT AND AGENT

Thomas Abel	July–Oct. 1866
S. Geisreiter	Nov. 1866
S. Hersey	Dec. 1866–June 1867
G. Benson	July–Dec. 1867
A. G. Cunningham	Dec. 1867–Nov. 1868

Lewisburg (Conway County)
SUPERINTENDENT AND AGENT

John Vetter	Feb.–Mar. 1866
William Morgan	June 1866–Dec. 1868

Lewisville (Lafayette County)
SUPERINTENDENT AND AGENT

Nathan Cole	Oct. 1866–June 1867
V. V. Smith	July 1867–Dec. 1868

Little Rock (Pulaski County)
SUPERINTENDENT AND AGENT

J. Raines (superintendent of freedmen until July 1865)	Feb.–Sept. 1865
W. Tisdale	Nov. 1865–July 1866
F. Gross	July 1866–Sept. 1867
James T. Watson	Aug. 1867
A. S. Dyer	Sept. 1867–Aug. 1868

Little Rock
SUPERINTENDENT OF FREEDMEN

W. G. Sargent (superintendent at Helena)	Jan.–Mar. 1864
W. G. Sargent	Apr. 1864–Nov. 1865

Madison (St. Francis County)
SUPERINTENDENT AND AGENT

A. S. Dyer	Apr.–Sept. 1867
Williams	Oct. 1867–Dec. 1868

Marion (Crittenden County)
AGENT

James R. Walker	Sept. 1866–Oct. 1867
E. G. Barker	Oct. 1867–Aug. 1868
Main	Sept.–Dec. 1868

Monticello
GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE SOUTH EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS

E. G. Barker (agent)	July 1865–ca. Jan. 1866
E. G. Barker (general superintendent)	Jan. 1866–Jan. 1867

Monticello (Drew County)
AGENT

G. Duvall	Jan.–Oct. 1866

Osceola (Mississippi County)
SUPERINTENDENT AND AGENT

Eli Mix	Apr. 1866–Oct. 1868

Paraclifta (Sevier County)
SUPERINTENDENT AND AGENT

A. W. Ballard	Dec. 1865–Dec. 1866
Hiram Willis	Dec. 1866–Oct. 1868

Pine Bluff (Arkansas River District)
GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

William J. Dawes	July 1866–Jan. 1867
William D. Hale	Jan.–Feb. 1867
William J. Dawes	Feb. 1867

Pine Bluff (Jefferson County)
SUPERINTENDENT AND AGENT

S. W. Mallory (superintendent of freedmen until July 1865)	Dec. 1864–Nov. 1865
D. H. Williams	Dec. 1865–Jan. 1866
A. Coats	Jan.–Mar. 1866
E. Wallace	Mar.–Sept. 1866
S. Geisreiter	Sept. 1866–Mar. 1867
W. J. Dawes (agent)	Mar.–May 1867
S. Geisreiter (agent)	May1867–July 1868
R. W. Barnard	Aug.–Dec. 1868

Princeton (Dallas County)
SUPERINTENDENT AND AGENT

Stubblefield	1866
George W. Mallett	1866–68

South Bend (Arkansas County)
SUPERINTENDENT AND AGENT

William D. Hale	May 1866–June 1867
S. Hersey	June–Sept. 1867
A. Coats	Sept. 1867–Mar. 1868
DeWolf	Mar.–July 1868

Union (Fulton County)
SUPERINTENDENT AND AGENT

Simpson Mason	Oct. 1866–Sept. 1868
John Martin	Sept.–Dec. 1868

Washington (South West District of Arkansas)
GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

E. W. Gantt	Nov. 1865–Oct. 1866
F. Thibant	Oct. 1866–Mar. 1867

Washington (Hemstead)
SUPERINTENDENT AND AGENT

John R. Montgomery	July–Dec. 1865
James Williams	Dec. 1865–July 1866
F. Thibant	July 1866–Dec. 1867
C. C. Gilbert	Dec. 1867–Dec. 1868

Note: The agent's name for the subdistrict of Dardenelle, Arkansas, is unknown, but his dates of service were Feb. 1866–Jan. 1867 and Sept. 1867–Mar. 1868.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
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RECORDS OF THE FIELD OFFICES FOR THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, BUREAU OF REFUGEES, FREEDMEN, AND ABANDONED LANDS, 1865–1872

ROLL 19

SUBORDINATE FIELD OFFICES

Pine Bluff (Superintendent of Arkansas River District)

Letters Sent	
Volume (144)*	July 1866–May 1867
Letters and Orders Received	July 1866–Feb. 1867
Reports of Persons and Articles Hired	July 1866–Feb. 1867

Pine Bluff (Jefferson County)

Press Copies of Letters Sent	
Volume 1 (143)	Jan.–May 1866 and Jan.–July 1868
Volume 2 (145)	May 1867–Dec. 1867

* Volume numbers assigned by the Adjutant General's Office (AGO) are shown in parentheses to assist in identifying the volumes.

Roll 19

Target 1

SUBORDINATE FIELD OFFICES
Pine Bluff (Superintendent of Arkansas River District)

Letters Sent
Volume (144) July 1866–May 1867

Volume pages were filmed sequentially.
Blank pages were not filmed.

Pamela

Letters sent

from July 7/66

to May 23/67

Arkansas [illegible]
Pine Bluff Ark July [illegible]

Adjutant Genl of the army
Washington D. C

Sir

I have the honor to report a change of my Post Office address from Rock Ark. to Pine Bluff Ark. I have established my Head Quarters at that place in compliance with S.O. No 58 dated War Dept A.G.O for the States of Missouri, Arkansas and Indian Territory, Office of Assistant Commissioner Little Rock Ark. July 5th 1866 a certified copy of which please find enclosed

very respectfully
Your Obt Servant
W. J. Dorsey.
Brvt Maj. & Genl Supt. & Asst. Com.
Arkansas River District

Bureau, Refugees. Freedmen & Abandoned Lands.
Office Genl Supt & Provost Marshal
Arkansas River District
Pine Bluff July 10th 1866.

Wallace Capt V.R.C.
Supt Freedmen &c.
Pine Bluff

Sir

Enclosed please find certified Copy of S.O. No. 58. dated Bureau of R.F. & A.L. Office of Asst Comr Little Rock Arkansas July 5th 1866 In compliance with Para 4 I have established an office on the corner of Public Square in Pine Bluff at which place I shall be most happy to see you at any time officially or otherwise. Please allow me Captain to congratulate you upon the very flattering terms in which I hear the conduct of the Savannah in your command is commented upon by the citizens of this

[illegible] me sincerely interested, not only in the successful accomplishment of the very delicate and responsible duties with which you are charged but in your own personal welfare

Very Respectfully your Obt Servt
Wm D Davies
Brvt maj & Genl Supt & Pro. M.

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands
Office Genl Supt & Provost Marshal
Arkansas River District
Pine Bluff Ark. June 12th 1866.

The Asst Adjutant
Supt Freedmens Bureau
Fletchers Landing
Ark.

Capt

Enclosed please find a certified copy of S.O. No 56. dated Office Asst Comr Bureau of R.F. & A.L. Little Rock Ark. July 8th 1866 which is forwarded for this Office for your information & guidance

very Respectfully
your Obt Servt
Wm D Davies
Genl Supt & Pro. Mar.
Arkansas River District

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abandoned Lands
Office Genl Supt & Provost Marshall
Arkansas River District
Pine Bluff Ark July 31st 1866.

Quartermaster Genl of the Army
Washington D.C.

Sir

I have the honor to transmit monthly return of C.C. & G.C. for which I am accountable for the month of July 1866

very Respectfully

---

your Obt Servt
Wm Davies
Brvt Maj. U.S.A.

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands
Office Genl Supt & Provost Marshal
Arkansas River District
Pine Bluff Ark July 31st 1866

Quartermaster Genl of the Army
Washington D.C.

Sir

I have the honor to transmit monthly return of Quartermaster stores for which I am accountable for the month of July 1866.

Very Respectfully
your Obt Servt
Wm Davies
Brvt Maj USA

Bureau, Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands
Office Genl Supt & Provost Marshal
Arkansas River District
Pine Bluff Arkansas July 31st 1866

Asstant Genl of the Army
Washington D.C.

Sir

I have the honor to report that I am on duty at this place as Genl Supt & Provost Mar. for the Arkansas River District of the Bureau of R.F. & A.L. by authority of S.O. No 58. dated Bureau of R.F. & A.L. Office of asst Comr Little Rock Arkansas July 5th 1866

very Respectfully
your Obt Servt
Wm Davies
Brvt Maj & Genl Supt Pro. Mar.
Arkansas River District

Office
Pine Bluff
Arkansas

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abandoned Lands
Office Genl Supt & Provost Marshal
Arkansas River District
Pine Bluff Sept 29th 1866.

Sir

I have the honor to request that you will detail a private Soldier from your command to report to me for daily duty at my office as orderly. I enclose a copy of the order assigning me to duty at this place

Very Respectfully your
Obt Servt
Wm J. Dawes
Bvt Maj & Genl Supt.
Arkansas River District

Supt Bureau of R F & A L
Napoleon Ark
Supt Bureau of R F & A L.
Auburn Ark
Supt Bureau of R F & A L.
Duvalls Bluff Ark
Supt Bureau of R F & A L
Little Rock Ark.

Bureau Refuges Freedmen & Abandoned Lands
Office Genl Supt & Provost Marshall
Arkansas River District
Pine Bluff Arkansas Sept. 29th 1866

Sir I have the honor to inform you, that no reports required to be furnished by you to this office. by Special Order No 58 dated Office of Supt Comst Bureau of R.F. & A.L. Little Rock Ark. July 5th 1866. have been received

Very Respectfully
your Obt Servt
Wm J. Dawes
Bvt Maj & Genl Supt.
Ark River Dist

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abandoned Lands
Office Genl Supt Provost
Arkansas River D.
Pine Bluff Ar.

Lt Col Skinner
Chief D. M. B. R. F. & A. L.

Sir

I have the honor to submit herewith my Reports of Persons & Property for months of July Aug & Sept together with Bills of Martin & Williams Gen. H. Hawley & Mr Joseph Williams of the firm of Martin & Williams Will Call on you in a few days to Receive the money on the accounts & the bill is authorized by Mr Hawley to Receive it Please retain mine until I see you

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Wm J. Dawes
Bvt Maj & Genl Supt
Arkansas River Dist

No of Endorsements fifteen 1151

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abandoned Lands
Arkansas River District
Pine Bluff Ark Aug 31 1866

Brig Adjutant Gen of the Army
Washington D.C.

Gen

I have the honor to transmit Monthly returns of Quartermasters Stores for which I am accountable for the Month of August 1866

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Wm J. Dawes
Bvt Maj & Capt U.S.V. A.D.C.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Ab
Ark River District
Pine Bluff Sept 30th 1866

Quartermaster Genl of the army
Washington D.C.

Sir

I have the honor to transmit Monthly Returns of Quartermaster Stores for which I am accountable for the Month of September 1866

I am very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Wm J. Daines.
Bvt Maj & U.S.V. & Capt U.S.A.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Ab
Ark River District
Pine Bluff Aug 31 1866

Quartermaster Genl of the army
Washington D.C.

Sir

I have the honor to transmit monthlies Returns of C.S. & F.Ed. for which I am accountable for the month of August 1866

Very Respectfully
Your obt Servt
Wm J. Daines.
Capt U.S.C.S. & Bvt Maj U.S.V.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Ab
Ark River District
Pine Bluff Sept 30 66

Asst Adjt Genl of the army
Washington D.C.

Sir

I have the honor to transmit Monthlies Returns of C.S. & F.Ed. for which I am accountable for the month of Sept 1866

Very Respectfully

Your Obt Servt
Wm J. Daines.
Capt U.S.C.S.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen
Arkansas River
Pine Bluff Ark

Adjutant Genl of the army
Washington D.C.

Sir

I have the hon
Report that I am on duty at this
as Asst Supt & Provost Mar for the Ark
River District of the Bureau of R.F. & A.
authority of S.O. No 58 dated Bureau R.F. & A.
Office of Asst Comm Little Rock Ark
July 5th 1866

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Wm J. Daines.
Capt U.S.C.S. & Bvt Maj Genl Supt

Office Genl Supt Arkansas River Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Sept 20th

Capt Wood. Little Rock.
Lt Willis. DeWalles Bluff.
Capt Wallace. Pine Bluff.
A.D. Douglass. Auburn Ark.
Lt J.A. Predmore. Napoleon.

Sirs

I have the honor to call your attention to Circular No 21 from the Office of the Asst Comm for the States Arkansas Missouri and Indian Territory dated May 10th 1866 and to instruct you to carefully Keep and Make the required Reports

Very Respectfully
Your obt Servt
Wm J. Daines
Bvt Maj Genl & Genl Supt
Arkansas River

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abd
Arkansas River District
Pine Bluff Ark Sept 22d 1866

Capt. T. Lyman Richardson
Sir

In Reply to your
inquiries of Sept 20 I have the honor to State
that unless otherwise provided in the Contract,
all time lost by Freedmen will be charged
against them in other words they will be
allowed Pay only for the time they labor.
For all time Freedmen are subsisted by the
Contractor during which they do not labor
they will be charged for their Subsistence
at the rate of actual cost of the Rations
agreed upon and furnished, these Rules will
apply Equally whether time is lost by Freedmen
from sickness or from indolence.
A Generous Policy is recommended in case
of Sickness.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Wm. Davis
Bvt Maj & Asst Supt Ark Riv

Very Respectfully
Your Obt
Wm J Davis
Capt & A.C. & Bvt Maj
Asst Supt Ark

Bureau R. F. & A.L.
Office Asst Supt
Pine Bluff Ark
Oct 6th 1866

A. A. Genl
Bureau R. F. & A.L. Little Rock Ark
Sir
I have the honor to request an order
to cover my late trip from Pine Bluff to Little
Rock and Return

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Wm J Davis
Capt & A.C. & Bvt Maj
Asst Supt Ark Riv

Bureau R. F. & A.L.
Office Asst Supt
Pine Bluff Ark
Oct 6th 1866

A. A. Genl
Bureau R. F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark
Sir
I have the honor to request an
order to cover a trip I desire to make to the
office of the Superintendent of Arkansas Asst,

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Wm J Davis
Capt & A.C. & Bvt Maj
Asst Supt Ark Riv

Bureau R. F. & A.L.
Office Asst Supt
Pine Bluff Ark
Sept 22d 1866

A. A. Genl
Bureau R. F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark
Sir
I have the honor to apply
for an order to hire a citizen to do necessary duty
as Orderly at this office to be Paid by the Quarter
master Department. - Having made an unsuccessful
application to the Commanding Officer of this
Post for the detail of a Soldier for this purpose

Bureau R. F. & A.L.
Office Asst Supt
Pine Bluff Oct 6th 1866

Lt Colo
Chief O.M. B.R. F. & A.L.

Sir

I have the honor to inquire if my requisitions for office furniture has been approved & if it has to request you to procure if and forward it to me at your earliest convenience, as what I have is borrowed and the owner is calling for it and if he takes it away I will have to set on the floor and write on my knee

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
W.J. Davies
Bvt Maj & Asst Supt
Arkansas River Dis

Bureau R. F. & A.L.
Office Asst Supt
Pine Bluff Oct 8 1866

Lt F. P. Irwin Supt Little Rock Ark.
Lt H. T. Willis Du valls Bluff Ark.
Lt S. Chichester Pine Bluff Ark:
Lt Fred O. Douglas Auburn Ark Ks
Lt J. L. Redmond Napoleon Ark.

Sir

I have the honor to request you to furnish me a detailed Statement of the Condition of affairs in your County giving any facts or suggestions as to the working of the Bureau that may be of interest or importance Please State what is the condition of the Civil Courts. Whether a freedman can get Justice in them as against the white man on testimony of blacks. Also State the number of Contracts on file in your County, the number of freedmen Contracted the (Approximately) working for wages & the proportion working for an interest in the Crops & the merits of the two Systems in your opinion. Also State the number of Plantations cultivated and any facts on the Subject. the Schools for Schools and the number of both whites & blacks on this subject any facts in regard to Obtaining minors Freedmen or as to Paupers or Vagrants. the number of Claims for back Pay & bounty prepared and forwarded. the number of Homesteads located by freedmen or Refugees and any facts on this subject. How many Plantations you have visited and how you were received. I desire to use the facts and suggestions thus obtained in making a report of the State of affairs in this district to the assistant Commissioner therefore any suggestions you may desire to bring before him will find through this Channel a ready Means. I will feel greatly obliged to you for an early Response

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
W.J. Davies
Bvt Maj & Asst Supt
Ark Riv Dist

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Office Genl Supt
Pine Bluff Oct 8th 1866

Maj. John O'Reilly
Comdg Dis. B.R.F. & A.L.

Sir

I am preparing to make to the Assistant Commissioner a detailed report of the affairs of my district & would be pleased to have it as full and satisfactory as possible & would be greatly obliged to you if you would furnish me with any facts or suggestions with regard to those matters which come within your department, and which affects it in this district. on account of my long continued sickness I shall be almost entirely in debted for the subject matter of my report to those officers who report to me and the kindness of other officers for such gratuitous suggestions & facts as they may see fit to furnish

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
W.J. Davies
Bvt Maj & Genl Supt
ask R.F. & A.L.

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Office Genl Supt
Pine Bluff Oct 8th 1866

Lilly
Dr. W.
Surgeon in chief B.R.F. & A.L.

Sir

I have the honor to request if not inconvenient with your duties that you will furnish me facts & suggestions as you may be able of in regard to the Sanitary condition of my District and matters connected therewith. I desire to embody the information thus received in a report now preparing for the Commissioner & any information or suggestion you may be pleased to furnish will be gratefully received. I trust you may find it convenient to respond to this request as I am dependent in a great measure on the courtesy of officers for the subject matter of my Report, having been so long confined by Sickness

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
W.J. Davies
Bvt Maj & Genl Supt
ask R.F. & A.L.

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Office Genl Supt
Pine Bluff Oct 8th 1866

Colby
Wm. N. Colby Esqr
Supt of Schools B.R.F. & A.L.

Sir

I am preparing a Report of the State of affairs in my District to present to the Assistant Commissioner and would be greatly obliged to you if you would furnish me with any facts or Suggestions in regard to the Schools or the cause of Education generally in this district or any matter that may have come to your knowledge either of evils to be corrected or causes of Congratulation for success already accomplished. My Communi-

[illegible] your favors especially upon those subjects more particularly undergoing change you will very greatly oblige me and the end the obligation will be the more binding from the fact that on account of my long sickness I am almost entirely dependent upon the courtesy of officers for the subject matter of my Report

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Wm Dames
Bvt Maj & Asst Surgn
ASW Rio Grande

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Office Asst Supt
Pine Bluff Oct 9 1866

Williams
Lieut Col U.S.A.
A.A. Genl B.R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock

Sir I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the letter of the Major General of the 4th inst relating to the expenses of the office of the General Superintendent and the suggestions in regard to the consolidation of that office with that of the local Superintendents I have given it that attention which the high source from which the suggestions come and the importance of the subject demand; I have been able to reduce the expenses to $830 pr. month including rent fuel lights & clerk hire this without creating any additional expenses to the local offices. I think this will be satisfactory to the Maj General and that the business of this office will be conducted with as much promptness and economy as is desirable

---

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Wm Dames
Bvt Maj & Asst Surgn
ASW Rio Grande

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Office Asst Supt
Pine Bluff Oct

Williams
Lieut Col U.S.A. A.A. Genl
B.R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock ark

Sir

In consequence
changes made in this office upon
suggestions of Maj Genl Sprague and
I have the honor respectfully to ask
to withdraw my application for author
to hire an Orderly of date Oct 5th 186
as I do not need one

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Wm Dames
Bvt Maj & Asst Surgn
ASW Rio Grande

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Office Asst Supt
Pine Bluff Oct 9 1866

Gunnison
Lt Col A.Q.M.
Chief Q.M. B.R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Sir

In consequence of
changes made in this office upon the sug
gestions of Maj Genl Sprague and him
I have the honor to inform you that the of
furniture for which I made requisition
not be needed and request that you
not send it to this Place

Very Respectfully
Your obt Servt
W J Davis
Bot Maj & Cml Supt
Ark Rice Distt

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Office Cml Supt
Pine Bluff Oct 10th 1866

Gen Ch. S
Supt Pine Bluff
Lt. Col. T.
Supt Du Valls Bluff

Lt. J. C.
Supt Arkadelphia

Sir

I have the honor to call your attention to a discrepancy existing in the forms furnished for "Proof of Cohabitation & Common Reputo" on account of the omission of the Statement of the number names & ages of the Children of the parties until Correct printed forms are received you will cause Manuscript affidavits to be made adhering to the form as printed and adding the number name & age of the Children

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
W J Davis
Bot Maj & Cml Supt
ark Rice Distt

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Office Cml Supt
Pine Bluff Oct

Genl R. F. P.
Supt Little Rock

Willis Lt Col T.
Supt Du Valls Bluff

Prudmore Lt J. C.
Supt Arkadelphia

Sir

I have the honor to again call your attention to the fact that no R. requested by S.O. 58. dated Little Rock, July has been received from your office, to State that the reports for the months of July august & September have not been immediately

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
W J Davis
Bot Maj & Cml Supt
ark Rice Distt

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Oct 11. 1866

Skinner Lt Col A.
A.A.G. Little Rock
Sir

I have the honor to transmit enclosed S.O. No 85 Office of Assistant Comr Little Rock Ark Oct 8th 1866 & to request you furnish the necessary transportation to enable me to comply with its requirements.

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
W J Davis

Bureau of Refugees F. & A.L.
Arkansas River District
Pine Bluff Oct 11. 1866

Asst
Bureau of R.F. & A.L
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to enquire the desire of the Assistant Commissioner in regard to the requirements of Par 2d S.O. No 85 of Oct 8th 1866.

The order would be perfectly plain to me were it not for the fact that on the 5th inst. I made an application for an order to cover my late trip to Little Rock & return & should be of the opinion the order was designed to cover that trip already made were it not that the Q. Mr. Dept is directed to furnish transportation - If the Maj Genl desires me to make a trip to Little Rock I would respectfully request you to ask Col Skinner to furnish me the necessary transportation - I enclose the order for this purpose - If the order is designed to cover the trip already made I have the honor to request that the clause directing transportation be furnished be stricken out -

very respectfully
your Obt Servt
W.J. Davis
Asst Maj Genl Supt

Office of Genl Supt
Ark River Refs
Pine Bluff Oct 11. 1866

Skinner Lt Col & A.D.C.
Little Rock
Ark
Sir

I have the honor to request that I be furnished with two months supply of Requisitions for the use of my Office -

very respectfully
your Obt Servt
W.J. Davis
Asst Maj Genl Supt
Ark River Refs

Bureau R.F. & A.L. Office Genl Supt
Pine Bluff Oct 11. 1866

Assistant Adjt Genl
Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock
Sir

I have the honor to request that there be furnished Copies of the Orders making the late changes of Superintendents in this County -

very respectfully
your Obt Servt
W.J. Davis
Asst Maj & Genl Supt
Ark River Refs

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A.L.
Office Genl Supt Pine Bluff
Oct 13. 1866

Gray — St. Francis R. Ark.
Little Rock
Willis — Asst Supt & Dist Ark
Duvalls Bluff.
Douglas — Alfred Douglas
Pulaski Ark Co
Lieut — Lt. S.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Redmond — Lt. J. C. Ark
Napoleon Ark

Sir.

I have the honor to for-

per Orig of Par 3. S.O. 86 pom Head Quarters
of the Army at Little Rock. You will
find the provisions of the same are drawn
around into effect in your district
& inform all those who should take the
oaths.

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
W J Davis
Brt Maj. Genl Supt
Ark Riv Dist.

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Office Genl. Supt
Pine Bluff Oct 18th 1866

Brig Genl
Sir

You will please call to this
office on Coming Monday in order that
new applications for pensions may be
prepared.

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
W J Davis
Brt Maj Genl Supt
Ark Riv Dist.

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Office Genl Supt
Pine Bluff Oct 20th 1866

A.A.Genl Little Rock Ark
Sir

I have the honor to Enclose
herewith Provision Returns for the month of
November. As this Post has been broken up
& no more Comd Stores can be obtained here
I have felt unwilling in regard to supplies
for this Hospital & have taken the liberty to forward
requisitions Three only as we are supplied only to
the 31st of October & it will require some time to send
them from Little Rock to this place

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
W J Davis
Brt Maj Genl Supt
Ark Riv Dist

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Office Genl Supt
Pine Bluff Oct 22. 18

Asst Adjt Genl Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark.
Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith
duplicate requisitions for 2. Mo. Stoves & CC & Hs. required
the Hospitals in this Place & to request the approval of the Assis
Commissioner & that they be forwarded to the proper Offi

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
W J Davis. Brt Maj
& Genl Supt. Ark Riv D

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abandoned Lands
Office Genl Supt
Pine Bluff Ark Oct 26, 1866

Genl
R.J. & A.G. Little Rock Ark.

I have the honor to respectfully suggest to and request of the Assistant Commissioner the appointment of Lieutenant Taylor 4 R.C. as Superintendent of Arkansas County - I am notified by Mr Douglass that he peremptorily declines the appointment and the County is now without a Superintendent - Capt Hilded whose name I mentioned to Maj Genl Sprague cannot accept as he cannot take the required oath - Arkansas is an important County as large numbers of Freedmen are under Contract and the present is an important time as the cotton raised during the past year and to which the blacks look as their security for payment for labor is being rapidly shipped - Old contracts are to be settled up and new ones for the coming season to be approved - on these accounts I feel it to be very desirable that an officer of the government be in charge in preference to a citizen resident especially should he be himself a planter or designing to become one next year -

I am satisfied the number of Freedmen in Ashley County is not so great and that a citizen Superintendent could accomplish probably as much good there as a government officer and as it would not require any additional appointment - hope it may seem best to the Major General to make the disposition I have suggested.

I have been thus far unable to visit Arkansas County as intended as I have been confined to my bed a large portion of the time. The cool weather of the last two or three days has had a very beneficial effect on my health and I hope to be able to go down next week - Should Lt Taylor be assigned to that duty I would be pleased to see him located at [illegible] there if not I will endeavor to select a good Citizen whose name I can present to the Commissioner for appointment -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
W. Dorris
Brt Maj & Genl Supt
Ark Riv District

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A.L.
Office Genl Supt Ark Riv Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Oct 29

Billings Hon. J.A.
Dis Y.S. Court Corp. Pine Bluff.

I have the honor to invite your attention to a complaint made by L.J. Billings Esqr attorney at this place to the effect that the County Judge of this County did and does refuse to admit the testimony of Freedmen before his Court and ignores the "Civil Rights Bill" as not binding upon him -

I respectfully request you to investigate this matter and to take such steps in the case as the facts may seem to require -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servant
W. Dorris
Brt Maj & Genl Supt
Ark Riv District

Hon J.A. Williams
U.S. Court Commissioner
Pine Bluff Ark

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Arkansas River District
Pine Bluff Arkansas
October 31st 1866

Genl of the Army
Washington. DC.

Sir

I have the honor to report that I am on duty at this place as Genl Supt of Negro Affairs for the Arkansas River District of the Bureau of R. F. & A. L. by Instructions of S. O. No 58 dated Bureau of R. F. & A. L. Office of Asst Comr Little Rock Arkansas July 5th 1866

very respectfully
your Obt Servt
W. J. Dawes
Brt Maj & Capt 2d U.S.C.
Genl Supt & Pro Agent

Bureau of R. F. & A. L.
Office of Genl Supt
Pine Bluff Oct 31. 1866

Quartermaster Genl of the Army
Washington
DC.

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith Monthly Returns of 6 C & S & Fx which I am accountable for month of Oct 1866

Very respectfully
your Obt Servt
W. J. Dawes
Brt Maj & Capt 2d U.S.C.
Genl Supt & Pro Agent

Bureau of R. F. & A. L.
Office of Genl Supt
Pine Bluff Oct 31. 1866

Quartermaster Genl of the Army
Washington
DC

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith Monthly Returns of 2 Mr Stores for which I am accountable for the Month of October 1866

very respectfully
your Obt Servt
W. J. Dawes
Brt Maj & Capt 2d U.S.C.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Office Genl Supt
Pine Bluff Oct 29. 1866

S. Kimmel Lt Col A. A. G.
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith Monthly Report of Rations & Articles for October 1866 - Please remit the money due on the vouchers to me -

very respectfully
your Obt Servt
W. J. Dawes
Brt Maj Genl Supt

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Office Genl Supt
Pine Bluff Ark
Nov 30th 1866

Tyler Maj John A.A.Gen.
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to report that no indentures of Apprenticeship of Colored Children have been made at the Office of the Bureau of R. F. & A. L. for the Count of Jefferson for the Month Ending Nov 30. 1866

very respectfully
your Obt Servt
W. J. Dawes
Brt Maj Genl Supt
Asst Comr

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A.L.
Office Genl Supt Ark Riv District.
Pine Bluff Ark Oct 30th 1866

Lt Col. C. Stephenson.

You will report to me with as little delay as possible the case of each Civil Officer of your County who refuses or neglects to comply with the provisions of the "Civil Rights Bill" Each case will be reported separately with names, dates place & distinctly stated and supported by the affidavit of at least one person either white or Colored - I will present these papers to the U.S Court Commissioner who will take such measures as are prescribed by law -

Very Respectfully
Your obt Servant
Wm G. Downs.
Brt Maj & Genl Supt
Ark Riv District -

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A.L.
Arkansas River District
Pine Bluff Oct 30. 1866

Assistant Adjutant General
Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to present for the consideration of the Assistant Commissioner the propriety of causing the County Court of this County to be notified of the fact that at the Hospitals of this Bureau there are "poor, such as lame, blind, sick and other persons who from age and infirmity are unable to support themselves" and that they be requested to take care as provided by law - Capt 125 - page 823. Laws of Arkansas - I can see no reason why the prosperous and wealthy County of Jefferson should not take care of their own poor, and the Government be relieved of the burden

I would respectfully request Authority if consistent with the views of the Commissioner to notify the County Court that for a reasonable time (say one month) the Government will continue to provide for those persons upon the payment of a stipulated amount - say twenty five cents, or some other sum, per day for each person, at the expiration of that time the whole care and expense to devolve upon the County - I think this would meet the hearty approval of a large number of the best citizens of the County, and prepare the way for the speedy withdrawal of the Bureau - The "Civil Rights Bill" is now respected in most of the Civil Courts of the State, and all disputes between whites and freedmen and freedmen themselves are settled by them -

Very Respectfully
Your obt Servant
Wm G Downs
Brt Maj Genl Supt
Ark Riv District -

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Nov 30th 1866

Tyler Maj John A.A.A.Gen
Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock -

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt by mail of the following described blanks
30 - Forms Declaration of arrears of pay & bounty
9. Applications discharged soldiers for additional bounty

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servant
Wm G Downs
Brt Maj & Asst Supt

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark Oct 31, 1866

Maj John A.A. Genl
Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to present for the consideration of the Major General commanding the Department and Asst Commissioner a few facts in regard to the condition of affairs in my District and which in my opinion will facilitate the speedy discontinuance of the Bureau in certain Counties -

In the County of Jefferson the Civil Courts almost unanimously accord to freedmen their rights as secured to them by law - The only instance of a disregard of these rights I have taken measures to have prosecuted and have no doubt it will be with successful issue - Those magistrates who have taken a bold stand in the matter are fully supported by the best people of the county - I shall deem it my duty soon to make an application to discontinue the Bureau here -

In Arkansas County I find the same state of things but not so fully throughout the entire County - There are a larger number of persons planting in that section who are from abroad. do not own the soil and have no interest except in the cotton raised - If they can ship this - secure the proceeds and leave the country - they have no pecuniary interest in securing to the freedmen their pay for their years labor -

Planters owning the land and other property upon it and desiring laborers for the ensuing year have strong inducement to deal justly with their employees - I have no doubt the Civil Courts will soon be in a condition to do ample justice to Freedmen but conclude the Bureau will be needed there sometime on account of existence of facts as above stated -

In the County of Desha the Civil Rights entirely ignored by every civil officer - I have instructed the Agent to present the cases officers refusing to recognize the rights of [illegible] supported by Affidavits and am assured the Hon A.S. Court Commissioner that [illegible] take legal steps to ensure their observance -

The agency in this county is accomplishing but little good as it has no support from the people or troops - I am of the opinion the greatest good that can be accomplished by the Agent under these circumstances is to secure the prompt recognition of the rights of freedmen by the Civil Courts -

Very Respectfully
Your obt Servant
W.F. Davies
Bvt Maj Genl Supt
Ark Riv District

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark Nov 9, 1866

Dyer — Maj John A.A.G.
Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to report in compliance with Circular No 24, Bureau R.F. & A.L. that I am on duty at Pine Bluff Ark as General Supt. Bureau R.F. & A.L. District of Arkansas. in conformity with S.O. No 18 Sec 4, dated, Bureau R.F. & A.L. Little Rock Ark. July 16th 1866. As modified by S.O. No 90 Sec 5. dated Bureau R.F. & A.L. Oct 29, 1866

Very respectfully
Your obt Servant
W.F. Davies
[illegible]

Bureau R.F. & A.L. Office Gen Supt &
Pine Bluff Ark Nov 9. 1866

Gen

General of the Army
Washington D.C

Sir

I have the honor to ac-
knowledge the receipt of Commission as Maj
by Brevet U.S vols

Very respectfully
Your ob. Servt
Wm Davis
Bvt Maj. USV

Nov 9. 1866

General
Washington D.C

Sir

In reply to your communication
of Oct 29. 1866. I have the honor to state that the
Clothing, Camp & Garrison Equipage for which returns
were made for August and September was for
property remaining in my hands as Capt Co D
28 USC.

Very respectfully
Your ob. Servt
Wm Davis
Bvt Maj Gen Supt Ark
Bureau R.F. & A.L.

Nov 9. 1866

Maj John A.A.G
Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to
transmit herewith a copy of S.O. No 90 from
G.H.Q. as it reads after being altered by Gen
Osg who directs me to forward it to you
that you might alter the books accordingly

Very Respectfully
Your ob. Servant
Wm Davis
Bvt Maj Gen Supt Ark

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A.L.
Office Gen Supt Ark Riv. D.
Pine Bluff Ark Nov 10

Green

O.D. A.A.G
Dept of the Ark
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the ho
to invite your attention to the fact tha
Arkansas Post in Ark County the riv
has washed the bank on which the ceme
of soldiers killed at that place are enti
to such a degree that the feet and leg
of bodies in graves remaining may be seen
protruding from the ground by persons
passing in boats on the river.

Very respectfully
Your ob. Servan
Wm Davis
Bvt Maj. Gen Supt
Ark River District

Bureau Refugees Freedmen and A.L.
Arkansas River District
Pine Bluff Ark Nov 10. 1866

Tyler

Bvt Maj John A.G.
A.G. a Genl
Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to
transmit herewith a communication from
L.J. Billings Esq on the subject of Bounties re
for discharged Freedmen. His letter was prepared
at my request that I might submit it to the
proper authority together with a request that
I might be allowed to contract with Mr Billings
to prepare the claims referred to by him. The
discharge papers in this office to the numb

of 186- The officer who has had charge of this branch has been absent since I have been on duty here, and I am informed by a private letter from him just received, is mustered out of the service- I have but one clerk to aid me in the discharge of my duties of Gen'l Supt of Ark River District and Deputy Special Supt of Jefferson County- It is utterly impossible for us to prepare and forward the claims especially at this season of the year when old contracts are to be settled up and new ones approved- Freedmen are becoming uneasy as cotton is being shipped, for fear they will lose their pay, and the utmost vigilance is necessary on our part to prevent this on the one hand, and allay their fears and keep them at their work according to their contract on the other-

Wm Billings is an Attorney here well versed in preparing these claims- He was a private in my regiment and afterwards promoted and mustered out as Captain and every way qualified to do this work- He will do it cheapest to the government and better than it can be done in any other way that I know of- I have therefore the honor respectfully to request that the second proposition be accepted whereby he proposes to furnish blanks, pay the postage, prepare the claims for one dollar each, the applicant paying for the Certificates as provided in Circular letter of March 31st 1866-

Very Respectfully
Your obt Servant
W. P. Dawes
Bvt Maj Gen'l Supt
Ark River District-

Bureau Refugees Freedmen and Abd
Office Gen'l Supt Ark Riv Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Nov 10, 1866

Copy furnished
A[illegible] Com'r Nov
10th 1866.

Major

You are hereby appointed an Agent
this Bureau for the purpose of making
to perform the duties requisite to carry
following instructions-

You are authorized to take so
of the cotton raised and prepared
market upon the Plantation of Dr James
as will be sufficient to pay all just
of the Freedmen for labor upon that pl
taking a sufficient margin for expenses a
fluctuation in prices- You will ship this
so taken to market and dispose of it by sal
in time to have the proceeds available by the e
of this year the time the Contract with th
Freedmen expires- You will obtain from
the books and accounts on the place an
idea approximate of the amount that will
be due and payable at that time- At the
Expiration of the Contract with the Freedmen
you will settle their accounts and pay them
the several amounts due them from the proceeds
of this sale of Cotton-

The balance of money if any remaining in
your hands after this settlement after paying
all expenses and your own charges will be by
you applied in part liquidation of an advance
of three thousand dollars obtained on this
Crop by Dr Gorce in New Orleans- Upon
concluding the business detailed above you
will please make a report to this office of your
action in the matter and furnish a copy of
the report for the information of Dr Gorce
and Wm Garrett-

Very respectfully
Your obt Servant
W. P. Dawes
Bvt Maj Gen'l Supt
Ark River Dist

Bureau R & A L
Office Genl Supt Ark & Ri Distrct
Pine Bluff Ark Nov 12, 1866

Maj John A. Eaton
Bureau R & A L
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to state that on the 22nd ult Requisitions for stoves and pipe for heating the Hospitals here were forwarded for approval to your office - Since that time nothing has been heard from them - The requisitions have not been returned disapproved - nor have the stoves been received on notice of their shipment -

The sick in the Hospital are suffering severely with cold - the buildings is open - their blood is thin, and clothing will not keep them warm - the Surgeon has caused fires to be built in the open air of logs and carried his sick out and placed them around these bonfires to derive as much benefit as they could - I fear many deaths will ensue from the want of proper warmth for these invalids: and urge this urgently, that I may not be blamed for any serious consequences that may ensue from want of fires - Please answer by Telegraph

Very respectfully
Your obt Servant
Wm J. Dawes
Bvt Maj Genl Supt
Ark & Ri Division District -

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abd Lands
Office Genl Supt Ark & Ri Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Nov 12, 1866

Tyler
Col Henry Agen
Asst A & I G
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to enquire whether the Contract Surgeon in charge of the Hospitals for the Refugees & Freedmen at this place is entitled to an allowance of fuel, and if so what amount and by authority of what order

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
Bvt Maj Genl Supt
Ark & Ri Division

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abandoned Lands
Office Genl Supt Ark & Ri Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Nov 12, 1866

Tyler
Maj John A. A. Gen
Bureau R & A L
Little Rock Ark

Major

In response to Circular Letter, dated Bureau R & A L Office of Assistant Commissioner Little Rock Ark Oct 31, 1866 I have the honor to state that I am unable to report with any tolerable degree of accuracy upon any one of the various heads under which a report is called for -

I will respectfully state that in the County of Arkansas, there has been no agent of the Bureau since Sept 17, 1866 - That I have never received a report of any description from that County and that the records and papers are packed up at South Bend awaiting the arrival of an agent to take charge of them - I can say generally, that I have visited that County and seen a large number of the employers and employees, and that everything is working as harmoniously as could be reasonably expected - There are many trifling and indolent negroes, who do not labor as required by the Contract, but as a general thing this is submitted to by the employer on account of

...ity of labor and the impossibility of sup-
...ply the place of hands discharged —
...ble scarcity of labor in the whole of my district
...has placed the employer entirely in the hands of the
...laborer, and in almost every instance of violation
...of Contract the fault has been with the Freedmen —
...In Jefferson County there are 801 Contracts
...approved by the Agent of the Bureau — but this is
...no criterion by which to judge of the "number of
...Contracts for labor of freed persons in your (my)
...district which have been made with the approval
...of an Agent of the Bureau". As many Contracts are
...on file that have been approved by Agents in other
...Counties and in other States — Many freedmen have
...made Contracts in Texas for labor here, and they
...have been approved there and brought here to be filed.
...Many have been approved here for labor to be
...performed outside the County — In Desha County
...it is even more uncertain — but Eight Contracts
...are on file in the office in that County, while
...that is a large planting district, and most of
...the Freedmen are under Contract, some filed in
...Du Valls Bluff, some at Monticello, some in
...Jefferson County — This is from the fact that
...Desha was without a Superintendent till July, and
...most of the Contracts were made at the beginning
...of the year, and filed with the most accessible Agent.
...Of Verbal Contracts or written agreements
...without the approval of an Agent — This office
...knows nothing, as they have been entirely ignored
...by Instruct of Execution Oct 16, 1865 Bureau R.F. & A.L.
...Little Rock Ark Oct 26, 1865 — But knowing the
...whole number it is impossible to give the number
...kept and broken with the cause of such violation
...I know of no way to obtain this information but
...by a personal application to every person who can
...contract for labor — While I am not able to state
...... and give figures I am pleased to be able
...... of general compliance by both parties
...with the terms of their Contracts. And
...nearly all the failures to comply that
...to Subordinates of the office is from a
...of instruction and a full appreciation
...responsibilities and solemnities of a
...on the part of the Freedmen — where
...is so great a demand for labor as
...in this District, there is but little
...from the employer —

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
Wm L Dawes
Brvt Maj Genl &c
Asst Com Dvsn

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A L
Office Genl Supt Ark Div
Pine Bluff Ark Oct 13.

Williams

Hon John A
U.S. Court Comr
Pine Bluff Ark

Sir

I have the honor to request that you inform me of the grounds taken by the Hon Judge of this Circuit upon the question of the Rights of Freedmen to appear in his Court, as parties to suits, and as witnesses as against white citizens, to contract marriage, indenture minor children &c —

I make these enquiries of you for two reasons first, because you are a practicing Attorney before this Court, and are familiar with his rulings — Secondly — for the reason that from your official position under the Government I may fully rely upon the statements you may make. And I desire to use the information in important official Communication —

Very Respectfully &c
Wm L Dawes

Bureau R F & A L
Office Genl Supt Ark Riv Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Nov 17, 1866

Byington
Auburn Ark

Sir

I am directed by the Maj Genl Asst Commissioner to revoke the appointment of Wm Douglas of Auburn the agent of this Bureau.

You will therefore please consider the authority conferred on you by my letter of the 10th inst annulled by the order of any superior officer

Very Respectfully
Your obt Servt
Wm J Dawes
Brvt Maj Genl Supt
Ark Riv Dist

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & L
Office Genl Supt Ark Riv Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Nov 17, 1866

Colby
Wm M
Genl Supt of Schools
Bureau R F & L
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to request that such buildings belonging to the Govt at the Camp in this City as may be adapted for the purpose may be assigned for the use of the Schools for Freedmen under the charge of the Bureau - Suitable accommodations may be thus obtained - Slight repairs will be required by way of replacing broken windows, leaky roofs and for benches &c - Authority to make these repairs is respectfully requested - Authority to supply wood for fires until the schools become self supporting is respectfully requested - I shall be absent from my office on duty in Arkansas Co for the ensuing 3 or 4 days

Very Respectfully &c
Wm J Dawes
Brvt Maj Genl Supt Ark Riv Dist

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & L
Office Genl Supt Ark Riv Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Nov 17, 1866

Tyler
Maj John A G C G
Bureau R F & A L
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I was informed by the Asst Comr that a surveying party had been out to select and locate Lands for enterprising Freedmen - There are several here who desire to avail themselves of the opportunity thus afforded to provide homes for their families - They have applied to me for information -

I have the honor respectfully to request that I may be furnished with such information instructions as will enable me to inform them how they may avail themselves of the advantages offered them by the Maj Genl - and by the Government

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
Wm J Dawes
Brvt Maj Genl Supt
Ark River District

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A L
Office Genl Supt Ark Riv Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Nov 22, 1866

Tyler
Maj John A G C G
Bureau R F & A L
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to respectfully request an order to go to Little Rock to arrange important business connected with the Bureau which cannot be transacted otherwise -

Very Respectfully
Your obt Servt
Wm J Dawes

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A L
Office Asst Supt Ark Riv Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Nov 22, 1865

Maj Jabn A.A.G
Bureau R.F. & A.L
Little Rock Ark

Major

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst in which I am directed by the order of the Assistant Commissioner to make a full report of the circumstances of the appointment of Maj Wm Douglass of Auburn as Agent of this Bureau to ship and sell Cotton to pay the Freedmen for labor on the plantation of Dr Doree -

In conformity to this order I have the honor to state as follows - Dr Doree made a Contract with Mr Garrett whereby he (Doree) leased his plantation to Garrett for one year (1866) to be planted in Cotton and Corn - Garrett to cultivate a specified number of acres - to furnish the laborers - mules - implements. forage - rations &c &c - in fact to pay all expenses including two hundred dollars per annum to be paid to the Dr himself for medical attendance on the Freedmen employed - Garrett was to ship the cotton so much as was necessary to pay these and other expenses and the balance remaining was to be equally divided between the parties - The work went on - The season was unfavorable - but about half the amount of land to be cultivated was cultivated - Another place was rented by Garrett - Some of the Freedmen were taken from the one place and put upon the other - Also some of the mules purchased and some of the supplies &c - Garrett had some thousands of dollars of money in his pocket belonging to the fund for supplies - and was suddenly missed and has not since been heard of - A person named Capt Billingsley appeared upon the place and assumed to be Agent of Garrett - takes charge of the business of Garrett and of the place - The funds gone out called in order the crop might be made Dr Doree went to New Orleans and procured an advance of $3,000 upon his own note and Garretts signed by him as his Agent - The fact is finally developed that Garrett has entered into a partnership with three or four other parties of which Billingsley is one to cultivate this and other places - Enormous expenses are incurred which the whole crop would not pay - Dr Doree begins to see trouble and becomes alarmed fears that he will be personally responsible for expenses incurred on the place and these expenses are mixed with expenses on other places of which he knows nothing - He is not willing to recognize Billingsley Garretts Agent - claims the contract has been broken by Garrett and refuses to let Billingsley ship the cotton which lies ready for market on the bank - I can not write without making my letter unreasonably long to state much of the differences of opinion of these gentlemen or more Leading them into a lawsuit which would probably tie up the cotton for years - Each party came to me for assistance - Both desired the Freedmen to be paid, but neither was willing to let the other ship the cotton to pay them - Neither was willing to authorize a third party to do so as thereby they would admit the right of the other to ship the cotton which both denied - Both claimed this advance of $3,000 and a long list of other claims to be paid out of this shipment - if cotton if it could be done without compromising their position to other claims which were in dispute - I was strongly urged by each of the parties to relieve them of this dilemma by taking all the cotton required to pay the freedmen and these claims and sell and pay them, This I refused to do as I had no color of authority - About $2,500 was due the freedmen - this amount I was urged by both parties to secure by taking cotton as they each declared they would prevent the other from selling by an injunction - Both desired Maj Douglass to be authorized by the Bureau to do it - to relieve them and settle so much of the difficulty as the hands were clamoring they were not going to be paid and were beginning

to step aside leaving the cotton which was not more than half picked to waste in the field - I professed to act taking time to consider - The General was gone, and I could get no orders from him directly and I came home to conclude what to do in the quiet of my office - I had been at home but a short time before Capt Billingsley came up and urged me for Gods sake to do something to pacify the hands to keep them in the field to save what little cotton they had raised and to secure the pay for them &c - Both parties had consulted attorneys and both were going to contest the right of the other to possession of the cotton. The partnership was insolvent - I was well aware of the want of authority on my part to write the letter & did, but being strongly urged by all the parties interested, seeing the freedmen would not otherwise get their pay - having the consent of Maj Douglass to act. knowing all the facts - and that my letter was only a color of authority issued to secure what every body wanted, but no one could consent to without compromising interests that were in dispute. I gave the instructions after submitting my rough draft of the letter before it was copied by the clerk. to the parties and their attorneys for their approval which they gave freely --

If my letter of the 10th to Maj Douglass is read with care, it will be seen that there is no authority therein expressed or implied for "liquidating an advance of three thousand dollars obtained by Dr Forbes in New Orleans - but that the money if any be applied in part &c - It was impossible to arrive at the exact amount that would be due the freedmen - or the amount of expenses or the price the cotton would bring. and nothing short of Infinite wisdom could determine the number of bales or parts of bales necessary to exactly pay them and leave no balance - Maj Douglass or the Bureau did not want to retain any money that might be over. and neither party would let the other have it - both wanted this advance paid - As a compromise among us all, it was agreed by Dr Forbes, Capt Billingsley, Maj Douglass and myself that as near the exact amount required as possible should be shipped and the balance if any applied [illegible] indicated - This troubled me more than all [illegible] of the transaction and I regret that your let[illegible] not convey the ideas imbodied in my instructio[illegible]

I cannot represent the extreme chagri[illegible] mortification with which I received and [illegible] upon the Telegram of the Major General. afte[illegible] and a half years of service without a word [illegible] of even caution or reproof - It owes the [illegible] better as it was the more public - Knowing [illegible] act was irregular I could not excuse myself [illegible] reporting it immediately by sending a copy fo[illegible] information of the Assistant Commissioner. I co[illegible] at that time have sent a full statement of t[illegible] case had it not looked too much like pleadi[illegible] "Guilty" before I was arraigned - I decide [illegible] accordingly that my administration be entirel[illegible] in harmony with the views of the Commissio[illegible] but so many cases come before me daily tha[illegible] are not provided for by any orders circulars [illegible] precedent that it is necessary that discretion [illegible] often be used by the Superintendent - -

Before writing to Major Douglass I had carefully re-read all the instructions of the Bureau and scores of pages of the best authorities in my possession and acted with the best light I had - It is not proper after reviewing the letter to which this is a reply that I should justify my act. but I beg leave respectfully to state that I could at that time see no other way out of the dilemma -

In Conclusion I can state that my letter of instructions of the 10th inst to Maj Douglass has not yet been received by him. and that the letter of withdrawal of the 14th I handed him in person at the Cumming House on the same day (14th)

Very respectfully &c
Jno Davis
Asst Supt Freedmen Refugees &c

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Ls
Office Asst Supt Ark Riv Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Nov 23 1866

Maj John A A G
Bureau R F & L
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I am requested by several influential Citizens of Arkansas County to present for the consideration of the Assistant Commissioner a plan which they propose for the amelioration of the condition of the unfortunate among the Freedmen and for the Physical, Religious & Intellectual advancement of those people located in the valley of the Arkansas river, say in the counties of Desha, Arkansas and Jefferson - Should the Maj General approve the plan he is desired and requested by them to make such favorable endorsement hereon as will give them the aid which the name of the Head of the Freedmen's Bureau of this state is sure to carry with it - There are in the counties named about 12000 persons who from a state of abject slavery have been thrown upon the world, friendless and totally without means - The greater part of them are industriously at work, making for themselves and families a comfortable subsistence - With no experience and no means to start with, they can do but little more - Among these are a large number of Aged and infirm - young and helpless orphans and half orphans, Sick, crippled &c who cannot take care of themselves and who have no friends who can or will provide for them - The people owing to the devastations of war are not able to meet the demand and the Government should not be chargeable with the expense - Children are in many places growing up in ignorance notwithstanding the attentions being made by the Bureau and the various Benevolent Institutions of the Country.

In matters of Religion a still more gloomy picture is presented - Ignorant colored preachers are rapidly leading them back to Heathenish Customs, and they may now be seen upon occasions of Religious Ceremony, dancing around the pile of pieces of meat, fish, and lizards which they have thrown together in their blind infatuation - In the practice of one single physician I am informed over a hundred deaths have occurred this season from actual starvation - Not for the want of food and meat which is afforded in abundance, but from a want of those delicacies which the sick of the invalid will crave when deranged in case - It is found to be of little use to give them if the diet cannot be regulated - There are so many other evils which the Commissioner has himself seen, and which will suggest themselves to him, it is proposed to remedy at least in part by the following plan - To establish in a central point a great public Charity which will partake of the nature of a Hospital, Almshouse - School - Church and Home That will be the Head Quarters for Schools and a School in itself - Where Religious instruction will be under the guidance of an intelligent and reliable man

It is proposed to present the claims of this people for an institution of this kind to the benevolent people of the north that they may be induced to direct their contributions to this object - It can be placed under the charge of whosoever they may desire, and will be heartily supported by the people of the district - it is designed to benefit, and who will give a tract of land suitable for its location, and contribute as largely as their means will allow for its support - It is believed it will soon become self sustaining - This is in brief the statement I was desired to make, and I wish respectfully to state that it meets my hearty approval, and I shall be happy if approved by the Assistant Commissioner to give it all the aid in my power

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
Wm F. Dames.
Bvt Maj Genl Supt
Ark Riv Dist

Bureau of Refugees Freedmen & Abd
Offices Supt & Pro Mar
Ark River District
Pine Bluff Ark Nov 26 1866

Col Kenny Agm
Bureau R F & A
Little Rock Ark

Colonel

I have the honor to request that I be furnished with the following described blanks -

18 Quarterly Returns of Q M Stores Ab 33
18 do do C C & G E Ab 51
18 Abstract of Articles purchased Ab 24 (Abstract D)
18 Vouchers to Abstract D Ab 25
18 Abstract of fuel Abstract E Ab 28
18 Requisitions for fuel Vouchers to Ab E Ab 30
18 Special Requisitions Ab 40
18 Abstract of Articles issued Ab 41 Ab F
18 Co. of Vouchers to Abstract Ab 42 & 43
18 Co. Vouchers to Abst B (Mileage) Abs 16 & 17
18 — — (Postage) Ab 20
18 — — (Drs & Fuel) Ab 21

fill out one only as sample for No of Dec 1866

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
Wm Dawes.
Bvt Maj Gen Supt
Ark Riv District

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abd
Ark River District
Pine Bluff Ark Nov 27 1866

Byler

Maj John A Logan
Bureau R F & A
Little Rock Ark

Major

In compliance with the request endorsement of the 24th inst upon my letter

to Superintendent Colby upon the s
of procuring a Government building for
use of Freedmens Schools in Pine Bluff - I
the honor to report that I have selected
building known as the "Messhouse" whi
to be adapted to the purpose and is
satisfactory to the teachers one of whom
accompanied me in making the selecti

I enclose Requisition (Form 40) fo
approval of the Assistant Commissio

I respectfully request authority
from the Lumber now lying about the
and quarters a sufficient quantity for
the necessary repairs. Authority is also re
quested to employ the necessary labor - t
purchase Nails, Glass and Paint. I desire
the inside be white washed on account of
smoked condition. And as a sanitary measu
Authority to furnish fuel is also respe
fully requested -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servants
Wm. Dawes.
Bvt Maj. Genl Supt
Ark Riv District

Bureau. R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Arkansas
November 30. 1866

Quartermaster Genl of the Army
Washington. D.C.
Sir

I have the honor to transmit here
with Monthly Return of C.C. & G.E. for which I am accountable
for Months of November 1866.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Wm Dawes Bvt Maj
Capt 23 U.S.C.C.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Arkansas
Nov 30th 1866

Genl of the Army
Washington D.C.

Sir

I have the honor to report that I am on duty at this place as General Superintendent and Bvt Major for the Arkansas River District of this Bureau R.F. & A.L. by authority of S.O No 58 Dated Bureau R.F. & A.L. Office of Apt Genl Little Rock Arkansas July 5th 1866

Very respectfully
your Obt Servant
Wm J Dawes Bvt Maj
Capt 23. U.S.C.

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Nov 30 1866

Quarter Master Genl of the Army
Washington D.C.

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith Monthly Returns of 2 Ms Stores for which I am accountable for Months ending Nov 30th 1866.

Very respectfully
your Obt Servant
Wm J Dawes Bvt Maj
Capt 23. U.S.C.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A.L.
Office Genl Supt Ark Riv District
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 1st 1866

Byler — Maj John AAG
Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Major

I have the honor respectfully to recommend that the Local offices of the Bureau R.F. & A.L. for the counties of [illegible] and Arkansas in any District be discontinued and abolished - In both of those counties Civil Magistrates and Civil Courts (with simple exceptions of the Probate Court) exist to freedmen all the rights and privileges to the whites and which are guaranteed them by the Act of Congress known as the Civil Rights Bill -

I am pleased to add also that I find in those Counties that the employers are disposed to deal justly with the employees - I would respectfully suggest that the General Superintendency be continued and that it be announced in an order discontinuing the local offices that the office of the General Superintendent will be continued at Pine Bluff to which all complaints, applications for information or relief will be made - The claim Department Schools - Hospitals &c would thus be provided for

Very Respectfully
Your obt Servant
Wm J. Dawes.
Bvt Maj. Genl Supt
Ark River District

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A.L.
Office Genl Supt & Pro Mar
Ark Riv District
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 7, 1866

Pendleton — Dr Sir
South Bend Ark

Sir

I have the honor to transmit enclosed my letter of Nov 28. to Maj Genl O&D Assistant Commissioner with his endorsement thereon - The Head Quarters of the Department will be removed to Fort Smith in about two weeks and if you desire an interview with

General you will find him at Little Rock
prior to the removal - He fully endorses your project
as does every one with whom I have conversed -
Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Wm J Dawes
Bvt Maj Genl Supt
Ark Bu District

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abd
Office Genl Supt Ark Bu Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 8th 1866

Sims Hon John A
US Court Commissioner
Pine Bluff Ark
Sir
I have the honor to hand
you the papers in the matter of the complaint
of Martha Jane (Colored) against David Stevenson
a Citizen of Desha Co Ark. and respectfully to enquire
what legal remedy against him exists under the
laws of this state as modified by the Civil rights bill
and to ask for your opinion, generally, as to the
course proper to be pursued in the matter -
I desire to forward these papers to the Assistant
Commissioner for his consideration with as little
delay as may be with such endorsement of my own
as may be required after informing myself of your
opinion of the legal points in the case -
Very Respectfully
Your obt Servt
Wm J. Dawes
Bvt Maj Genl Supt
Ark Bu Dist.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abd
Office Genl Supt Ark Bu Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 8th 1866

Tyler Maj John Aaag
Bureau R F & A L
Little Rock Ark
Sir
I have the honor to
transmit herewith papers in the case of Co
of Martha Jane a Freedwoman against D
Stevenson a Citizen of Desha County - The
are as follows -
Letter of Lt Predmore Supt to Maj Genl Orel,
Deposition of Martha Jane
Letter of Lt Predmore to Mr Stevenson.
Letter from Self to Hon Jno A. Williams US C
with his endorsement thereon.
Letter (Copy) of instructions to Lt Predmore.
As the case seemed to be one of pressing
necessity and on the account of the uncertainty
of the mails. I sent the instructions of which the
enclosed is a copy trusting they would meet
the approval of the Assistant Commissioner.
Very respectfully
Your obt Servant
Wm J. Dawes
Bvt Maj Genl Supt
Ark Bu Dist

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abd
Office Genl Supt Ark Bu Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 8th 1866

Predmore Lt J C
Supt Freedmen
Napoleon Ark
Sir
I have the honor to
acknowledge the receipt of your letter to the
Maj Genl of date Nov 30th with accompanying

[illegible] in the case of the complaint of Martha Jane Against Daniel Stevenson and to state that I have forwarded them to him for instructions in the matter —

In the mean time you will cause a complaint to be made by Martha Jane before some Justice of the Peace of your County who will be bound to attend to it and if he refuses, you will report all the facts in the case to me, to be presented to the U.S. Court Comm., who will at once arrest the Justice of the Peace under the provisions of the Civil Rights Bill. Mr Stevenson is bound to support the child and also care for the Mother while she is ill —

Should the woman Martha Jane become destitute and require provision which you cannot obtain you will place her upon a Steam Boat and send her to the Hospital at this place where she and her child will be received — You will prepare an account of her fare up the river and forward to the Asst Comm for his approval — I do not know what if any provision is made for transportation in such cases but will guarantee the payment of it and if the Government will not pay it I will pay it myself from my own pocket — We must not let these people Starve as long as we have money ourselves

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Wm. Dawes
Bvt Maj Genl Supt
Ark Riv Dist

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & C
Office Genl Supt Ark Riv Dist
Fort Smith Ark Dec 8th 1865

Capt John A Ryan
Asst Supt Ark Riv Dist
Fort Smith Ark

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 1st inst in which you inform that Press House with lumber for repairs be turned over to me and direct me to and forward an estimate of the amo required. I have with the assistance o practical builders made the necessa and find the following Articles will be 3 000 feet of Lumber
48 Lights of Glass 10 x 12 —
42 " Sash " x " —
100 Lbs Nails —
3 pair Hinges —
3 Doz Screws —
3 Thumb Latches
6 Lbs Putty
1 Bbl Lime

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Wm. Dawes,
Bvt Maj Genl Supt
Ark Riv Dist

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & C
Office Genl Supt Ark Riv Dist
Fort Smith Ark Dec 8th 1865

Dyer — Capt John A Ryan
Asst Supt Ark Riv Dist
Fort Smith Ark

Sir

I have the honor to

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & C
Office Genl Supt Ark Riv Dist
Fort Smith Ark Dec 8th 1865

Granger — U S V
Special Agent Superv
Through Maj John Tyler A Q M
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I am informed and fully believe that a party of Six Freedmen representing twenty families will be prepared to leave this place on Monday the 11th instant provided with team, tools and supplies to accompany you on a tour of search for homesteads. They feel anxious to get land that will give them a landing on the Arkansas River —

any thing occur to prevent you going with them please advise me by telegraph as early as Saturday next - They will intend to reach Little Rock by Tuesday evening the 18th inst

Very respectfully
Your ob Servant
Wm. Downes,
Brt Maj. Genl. Supt
Ark Riv Dist

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Office Genl Supt
Pine Bluff Ark
Dec 10th 1866

Brevet Maj. Genl. Howard
Commr Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Washington D.C.

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of Nov 28th 1866 requiring the rendition of an account for which my returns of C & C & S for October 1866 is rendered & to reply that it is for $60 D. 23rd Regt V.R.C.

Very respectfully
Your Ob Servt
Wm. Downes
Brt Maj. Genl & A.G. 23 V.R.C.

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Office Genl Supt
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 10, 1866

Bvt Maj. Genl. John Sanborn
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith for the approval of the Assistant Commissioner Requisitions for coffins & to state respectfully that I am expecting orders to employ workmen in making repairs on the "Mess House" & I have no doubt but the articles required could be made here at that time cheaper & better than they could be sent from Little Rock.

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Office Genl Supt
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 10, 1866

Brevet Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard
Commr Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Washington D.C.

Sir

I have the honor to transmit my monthly return of property belonging to the account of Bureau of R.F. & A.L. for Month ending Nov 30th 1866.

Very respectfully
Your Ob Servant
Wm. Downes
Brt Maj. Genl Supt

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Office Genl Supt
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 12, 1866

Bvt Maj. John Sanborn
Little Rock, Ark.

Sir

In order to make out & perfect the cases already on hand I require the following blanks - viz
100 Applications of Discharged Soldiers for additional Bounty -
90 Applications for arrears of pay & bounty
If you have not the requisite number on hand please send all you can spare & the rest as soon as possible

Very respectfully
Your Ob Servant
Wm. Downes
Brt Maj. Genl & A.G.

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 12. 1866

Brig Genl John A. Rawlins
Asst Adjt Genl
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to enquire the exact dates of the completion of organization of the following Regiments.

64 Regiment U.S. Colored Infty
63 " " " "
54 " " " "
46 " " " "
4 " " " " Artly (Heavy)
2 " " " " " (Light)

Very respectfully
your Obt Servt
W.J. Davis
Brt Brig Genl Supt

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Dec 12. 1866

Brig Genl John A. Rawlins
Asst Adjt Genl
Little Rock

Sir

I have the honor to enquire if it is necessary that blank forms No 5 accompany applications for back pay & bounty when the back pay due is simply the difference of pay between $7.00 and $13.00 per month? Is it necessary that said forms be sent in any case? Is not the power of attorney given Maj. Wm Hamilton sufficient to authorize him to sign & file out those blanks for the applicants - If not is it sufficient to sign them in blank or must they be filled out?

Very respectfully
your Obt Servt
W.J. Davis
Brt Brig Genl Supt

Bureau R.F. & A.L. Office Genl Supt
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 14 '66

2 Inclosures

Brig Genl John A. Rawlins
Asst Adjt Genl
Pine Bluff
Ark

Sir

It is required by the Commissioner that a report be made to him of the valid & proper amount of rent which should be paid for such part of the land and of the Govt as may be necessary for the purposes of Hospitals - I have the honor respectfully to request you to inform me by endorsement upon this the amount of land in your opinion is required by the Hospitals designating the lots by their proper number & description - including all the grounds upon which the buildings are located & the necessary space for wood yard - Clothes yard &c - Your opinion of the value of the rent of such grounds would be of use in enabling me to make the required report.

Very respectfully
your Obt Servt
W.J. Davis
Brt Brig Genl Supt

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Dec 17. 1866

Brig Genl John A. Rawlins A.A.G.
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 13th inst directing me to inform you by telegraph of the arrival of Corps Baker at Thibodeaux & to state that the instructions will be promptly complied with

My respectfully
your Obt Servt
W.J. Davis
Brt Brig Genl Supt

Bureau Refugees &c.
Pine Bluff Dec 17, 1866

Lt. W. Sykes
Thro Maj Tyler A.A.G.
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to ask permission to visit your city on official business in regard to surveying expeditions &c to state that the packet will leave here on Monday 24th inst as you desire, if nothing prevents. The list of persons desiring lands numbers fifty names I shall in the effort will prove successful.

very respectfully
your obt servt
John W Sykes
Maj 2d Regt U.S. Col Troops
Asst Supt

Bureau Refugees. Freedmen & C.
Office Asst Supt. Ark. Riv. District
Pine Bluff Ark Nov 30th 1866

Tyler
Maj John A.A.G.
Bureau R. F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Major

I have the honor to present for the consideration of the Asst Commissioner the following report of affairs in my District for the Month of Nov 1866

Refugees

Issues — No applications for food or clothing have been made by this class of people and no issues have been made.

Transportation — has in no instance been furnished —

Freedmen

Contracts — between the freedmen and their employers have as a rule been reasonably well adhered to by both parties. The great scarcity of labor in this District has placed the planter at the mercy of the laborers to a great degree and he has been compelled to yield to demands from them that under other circumstances he would not have submitted to —

Saturday — Afternoons from time immemorial has been a holiday and is now claimed as such almost universally by nearly all the blacks regardless of the condition of the Crops and the great damage sustained by the loss of labor in getting cotton out of the field or picking it out when wasting —

Altering — Contracts from wages by the month to a system of paying so much per pound for picking out the cotton as the picking season comes on, has had a demoralizing effect upon the labor of the country and tends to weaken the respect that should be felt for the sacredness of the Contract —

Rations — in some instances have not been furnished by the landlord in cases where land has been rented to freedmen to cultivate on shares and has been the partial cause of much killing of stock and stealing from gardens fields &c —

Fire Arms — are owned and used by nearly every freedman in the district and have been the fruitful source of many accidents and frequent crimes — This is one of the greatest evils of which complaint is made —

Wages — for labor during the past year have been high when estimated by the month ranging from Seventy to Seventy Five Dollars and rations for first class hands and from Eight to Fifteen Dollars and rations for women and children — On many plantations an interest or share of the crop has been given and has been so satisfactory in its results that I think nearly all contracts for the coming year will be upon that plan — The usual rates have been to share equally the expenses and proceeds of the products of the plantation — Good places have been rented during the past year for Ten Dollars per acre and a still higher price is asked for the coming year —

Crops — this season have fallen far short of the expectations of all parties owing to the over[flow]

the spring - soon seed - and continued south during the summer -

with freedmen will usually be made in the next month - But little danger of cheating the freedmen by the employer exists for the reason that they desire to retain their services the coming year. The fact that most of them are over paid - and I believe a spirit on the part of most of the large planters especially to deal justly with their hands -

Stamps are required by law to be placed on Contracts. No uniform practice as to the number any Amount for each Contract exists in any district - I have a written paper of instructions from one of the clerks at Head Quarters by which that I cannot understand it myself and have not published it to any Superintendent. I would be greatly pleased if some plain and general instructions on this subject could be given by the Bureau Commissioner -

Courts in the Counties of Jefferson and Arkansas with the exceptions of the Probate or County Court recognize the civil rights of freedmen as guarantees by the Act of Congress known as the "Civil Rights Bill." In the County of Desha I am informed there is not a Magistrate who accepts that as the law and will not admit a freedmen as a witness against a white man or as a party to a suit - All matters of difference where freedmen are a party which cannot be amicably arranged at this office are turned over to the Civil Courts in the two first-named counties and it is believed full justice is being done -

Schools It is believed that no one thing will do more to elevate the freedman and place them in the position it is the desire of the Government - and all good people they should occupy than the education of the children and the younger portion of the Adults - But few schools are reported in my district. Last month but one day school with an attendance of 71 pupils and one Sabbath School with 45 pupils was reported - For this month two day and two night schools with an attendance of 135 are reported.

Also two Sabbath Schools with an at... of 75 - There has been paid during ... month for the support of these schools ...

~~It is believed that~~ When suitable rooms are provided at this place the ... of pupils will be greatly increased - It is ... that a large number of plantation schools ... would accomplish great good could be ... established and well filled -

Hospitals The only Hospital in this district located at Pine Bluff is very successfully managed ... Dr Dunn - It contains about thirty patients and the requisite number of nurses and attendants they are all intelligent and all the expenses of the Hospital are born by the Government -

H Fund A Hospital fund of about $146 - has been made but owing to the change of Officers commanding this Post and their negligence to report the amount to Maj Craig the fund is now unavailable The matter has been placed in the hands of the Surgeon in chief of the Bureau and it is hoped he will be able to secure it -

Sanitary Condition on Plantations - Most Contracts provide that medicine and in many instances Medical attendance shall be furnished by the Planter - A far greater per centage of sickness and deaths occur on plantations than before the war - I have my data to enable me to give accurate statement but it is a common and generally admitted fact -

Small Pox has ravaged many plantations and caused much loss of life - It is desirable that the Government should procure vaccine matter and cause the vaccination of the whole Negro population - No one else will do it and it would save many valuable lives -

Cleanliness of persons and Quarters among the freedmen is sadly known on plantations - This is

ville to continue in good health and live with such an accumulation of filth as the houses present. This evil is almost universal. I know of no way to remedy it and have talked to them on the subject till nearly disgusted.

But few orphans claim the protection of the Bureau. Seven were sent from the Hospitals during the month to the Asylum at Little Rock. No indentures have been made during the month.

Vagrants. I am pleased to report that but few paupers and beggars are to be found in this district. Those absolutely destitute and unable to provide for themselves are in Hospitals. Many live very poorly and are indolent, and no doubt steal more or less, but manage to get a living without becoming a public charge except in those extreme cases where disease has disabled them.

Marriages. I have taken great pains to enforce upon the freedmen the necessity of marrying according to the laws. They have ascertained that while the Justice of the Peace or Minister can marry them, he cannot divorce them and marriages are becoming less and less frequent.

Morals. The most deplorable state of morals exists throughout my entire district. Promiscuous cohabitation is the universal custom and has its baleful effects not only on all concerned, but upon the future.

Children. But few infants and small children can be found on any plantation. I attribute this to the causes mentioned above, and know of no remedy except the slow and tedious one of "line upon line and precept upon precept".

Churches & Religion. There is no well directed and intelligent effort made for the spiritual welfare of the people under my charge. There are many churches but I cannot report the number, and they are controlled by preachers and exhorters as ignorant as the hearers themselves, and the whole race are becoming superstitious and fast relapsing into those heathenish customs and rites which are practiced in the land from which they came. It would be if a good Missionary Church could be established in convenient location to give the proper direction to the natural religious tendencies of these people.

Homesteads. No location of Government lands as provided by Act of Congress has been made to my knowledge. A party is being organized consisting of about twenty families who wish to locate a colony. I have no doubt with the facilities afforded by the Bureau the effort will be successful.

Claim Department. My Claims for Bounty, Back Pay or Pensions have been presented during the month. The Lieutenant to whom was entrusted that department of business has been absent and has not yet returned and the current business of the office has been too great to admit of leaving it up in his absence. Over one hundred certificates of discharge are now on file in this office.

Abandoned Lands

There are upon the records of the office eleven plots or tracts of land as reported. I am informed by Col Stimmel that all of these tracts except two have been restored. I am unable to get any further information on the subject. I would respectfully ask for the necessary authority to drop from my returns such lands as have been restored.

General Remarks

Description of Country. The Arkansas River passes through nearly the center of my entire district and on its banks are the fine alluvial lands which are considered second to no lands in the world for the production of Cotton. The plantations on these lands are large affording employment on each labor for from thirty to one hundred hands. Back from the river the plantations are small each farmer raising from one to half a dozen bales and employing but few hands.

are frozen and but little labor expended on them. Bond is principally done on Corpus back and in wet season is hazardous - The general report of the scarcity of schools at the south is true true of my district - There are some good schools in this city and a good Northern sentiment that I believe is increasing I have been uniformly well received wherever I have been having in no instance been subjected to insult or abuse - I have carefully abstained from all descriptions or conversations of a political nature in endeavoring to perform the duties upon which I am placed with fidelity, and not considering it any part of my duty to enlighten the people upon their political relations -

I have made this report longer than I otherwise would from the fact that I have made none before and it was your request that I go fully over the whole ground -

I am very respectfully
Your obt Servant
W J Davies
Bvt Maj Genl Asst
Ark Riv District

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & L
Office Genl Supt Ark Riv Dis
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 16th 1865

Tyler Maj John A A G
Bureau R F & L
Little Rock Ark

Major I have the honor to state for the consideration of the Asst Commissioner that I will have taken from the "corral" such materials as will be needed to use in repairing the Mess House and Hospital certainly by the end of this month - That the remaining buildings and materials will be in a very exposed condition subject to plunder and theft - that they be readily sold at good prices, and would recommend that measures be taken to put them in market as soon after the first next month as may be - Several applications to purchase have already been made -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
W J Davies
Bvt Maj Genl Asst
Ark Riv District

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & L
Office Genl Supt Ark Riv Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 18th

William Hon John A
U S Commissioner
Pine Bluff Ark

Sir I have the honor to request if not inconsistent that I be informed of what legal steps have been taken in the matter of the complaint of a violation of the act of Congress known as the "Civil Rights Bill" by the Hon Judge of the Pulaski Court of Jefferson County - in order that I may be able to report the facts to Maj Genl Asst Commissioner Bureau R F & L -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
W J Davies
Bvt Maj Genl Asst
Ark Riv District

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & L
Office Genl Supt Ark Riv Dis
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 19, 18

Tyler Maj John A A G
Bureau R F & L

Sir

I have the honor to submit for the approval of the Assistant Commissioner my letter in the matter of the violation of the Civil Rights Bill by the Hon. Probate Judge of this County.

Enclosed please find the following described papers.

Certified Copy of my letter of Oct 29th to Hon Jno A Williams with the endorsement thereon

My letter of 18th inst to Hon J.A. Williams with his endorsement.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servant
Wm Downes
Bvt Maj Genl Supt
Ark River District

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abd
Office Genl Supt Ark River District
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 20th 1866

Dreckmore Lt & C
Supt B.R.F. & A.L.
Napoleon Ark

Sir

You will please make to me immediately upon the receipt of this communication a narrative report of your labors during the month and hereafter such report will be made monthly in time to mail it on the 25th of each month.

Let these reports be full, embracing all matters of interest connected with Freedmen, together with any suggestions you may wish to make.

Your report for November in regard to "Indentures of minor Children" has not yet been received. This report can hereafter be included in the narrative report above alluded to.

Very respectfully Yours obt svt
Wm Downes
Bvt Maj Genl Supt Ark River District

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A
Office Genl Supt Ark River D
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 20th

Tyler Maj John AAAG
Bureau R F & A L
Little Rock Ark

Major

I have the honor to r
an increasing demand for teachers on colonial
I view this as one of the most promising fea
of good to the Freedmen and greatly desire it
be promptly encouraged - I am informed an em
of the Bureau is expected to make a tour of the s
with a view to the establishment of such schools -

I would respectfully request that my distric
may be canvassed at as early a date as possib
and as many schools established as can be reaso
well filled - I judge the most of them may be sel
supporting -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servant
Wm Downes
Bvt Maj Genl Supt

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A
Office Genl Supt. Ark Riv Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 20 1866

Tyler Maj John AAAG
Bureau R F & A L
Little Rock Ark

Major

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Circular No 81 Bureau R F & A L Little Rock Ark Dec 17 1866 and to enquire if citizen physicians ingularly contracted with Co. A.A. Surgeons in charge of Hospitals R.F. are included in the words "Citizen Superintendents or Agents" Also to enquire in case they are, whether it will be my duty to place the employees of the Hospitals here, upon my rolls.

Very respectfully Your obt svt

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abd
Office Asst Supt Ark River District
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 21. 1865

Maj Henry Gear Kimbro

Sir.

A complaint is made to me by a freedman. William Dove that you have in your custody his son Sergy Dove a minor and that you refuse to give him up to him. and that he is entitled to claim by law as his natural Father. I judge there must be some misunderstanding about this matter as I cannot imagine you would knowingly place yourself in the unpleasant position you would be in by forcibly endeavoring to obtain and keep possession of a child upon which you had no claim, especially of a colored child whom the General Government itself has undertaken to see protected in all its rights - No claim to the services of a minor is held good without the consent of of its parents or legally constituted guardian - In order that the matter may be fully understood and explained. I would request you to meet me if possible in company with Dove and the boy at my office some day next week when it will best suit your convenience - I will be in my office during the entire week and greatly desire that the matter of difference between the whites and blacks be amicably adjusted and that the freedmen may feel that they are well treated, as upon this their whole welfare as a laboring class depends - I have found usually in my district a desire on the part of the whites to do justice - as the enclosed circular will show you - As this is a matter of considerable importance please give it your earliest attention -

Very respectfully, your ob't serv't
[illegible] D Rines
[illegible] Asst

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A
Office Asst Supt Ark Riv Di
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 21

Tyler Maj Gen A A G
Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to b
herewith Requisition for stove Pipe for Hosp
approval - I can purchase pipe here for the
cents (35) per pound -

I am respectfully
Your obt Servant
W. Daines
Bvt Maj. Asst Supt

Bureau Refugees. Freedmen & A
Office Asst. Supt. Ark Riv Dis
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 22. 186

Mallory & Co
Coehill & Co
Smith Anderson

Whereas it appears upon the representation of One Anderson Smith that a controversy exists in regard to certain claims of said Anderson Smith for labor done and materials furnished in performance of a certain Contract approved by an Agent of this Bureau. And whereas it appears justice cannot be obtained by said Smith in the Civil Courts. And whereas in an endorsement by Gen Ord he says. "Bvt Maj Gen W. Daines Asst Supt will endeavor to cause justice to be done in this case," And whereas justice cannot be done without a full understanding of all the claims and interests of all parties concerned. and to afford such opportunity. I do hereby in compliance with the instructions of Maj Gen Ord Appoint and direct that the 28th Inst at 10 o'clock A.M. for the hearing of said case at the Office of the Asst Supt of Bureau at Pine Bluff Ark. when all parties interested are required to be present personally or by Attorney - Maj D Rines

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abd
Office Asst Supt Ark Riv Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 22, 1866

Genl

It having been reported to this office that certain Freedmen on the plantation of Maj Crawley in violation of their Contract and the solemn Obligations imposed upon them therein, ~~and~~ have ceased work and are roaming about the country, And as they are vagrants and are liable to become a charge upon the County. And as such persons can not be encouraged or sustained in such evil courses by the Government. And it is necessary that these cases be investigated, and if the persons complained of are found to be vagrants, they should be arrested and turned over to the Civil Authorities. And as the condition of my health - the state of the weather, and the duties of the office will not admit of my absence, I do hereby authorize and empower Wm Steel Asst for me and in my behalf as an officer of this Bureau, to do and cause to be done in the cases above stated, all that I might properly do or cause to be done by virtue of my appointment as Asst Supt of this Bureau. And of his acts to make full and complete reports to me -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
Wm. Dawes,
Bvt Maj Genl Supt Asst

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abd
Office Asst Supt Ark Riv Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 22, 1866

Tyler Maj John A.A.G.
Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith Requisition for supply of clothing for issue to refugees & Freedmen both in Hospital and in my District at large.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
Wm. Dawes.
Bvt Maj Genl & Asst

Freedmen

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abd
Office Asst Supt Ark Riv Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 22, 1866

Lt J C
Asst R.F. & A.L.
Napoleon Ark

Sir

You will cause the ~~s~~
Child of Martha Jane freedwoman ~~de~~ ~~co~~
be apprenticed in accordance with Circular &
Bureau R.F. & A. Little Rock May 10th 1866 -

Should the County Judge refuse or neg
to perfect and conclude the Articles of Indentur
as provided for white Children in the case
of the color of the child, you will report a
the facts in the case supported by affidavit
this office and await further instruction

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
Wm. Dawes.
Bvt Maj Genl & Asst

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abd
Office Genl Supt Ark Riv Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 24th 1866

Tyler Maj John A.A.A.G
Bureau R.F.V.A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Major

I have the honor to state that I am making monthly Returns of C.C. & C.F. to Genl Dept of a few Worthless Articles Appertaining to the Detachment of Co D 23 and C. and they ought all to be condemned. and that they have not been, on account of my not being near an officer authorized to inspect, And as I am bound to make Monthly Returns of C.C. & C.F. Appertaining to the Bureau R.F. & A.L. and to Simplify Accounts I respectfully

request authority to transfer the following named Articles from my account as Capt Co D 2d. C.H.A. to my account as Supt of Bureau viz- 5 Blankets woolen- 1 Camp Hatchet- 1 Hatchet Handle- 2 Sergeants Sashes- 1 Drum Head Cotton- 1 Sling

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt

Bvt Maj. Genl Supt

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A.L.
Office Genl Supt 4th Riv Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 24th 1866

Maj John A.A.G.
Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Maj

I have the honor to respectfully request Authority to transfer the following named Articles of Dn Stores on my return to the account of Bureau R.F. & A.L. on return I am required to make - This request is made that the making of my return may be simplified as the property is really in use in the office of the Bureau. The Property is as follows - 6 Pen Holders 2 Paper weights - 1 Pen Rack - 3 Inkstands - 2 Paper Weights 1 Field Desk - 1 Desk - 4 Office Chairs - 1 Lamp -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
W.J. Davis
Bvt Maj. Genl Supt

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A.L.
Office Genl Supt 4th Riv Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 24, 1866

Tyler Maj John A.A.G.
Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Major

I have the honor to

---

transmit herewith Requisition for Stationery for the first Quarter 1867 -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
W.J. Davis
Bvt Maj. Genl

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A.L.
Office Genl Supt 4th Riv Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 26, 1866

Granger U.S. Surveyor
Through Maj Tyler A.A.G.
Bureau R.F. & A.L.

Sir

The surveying party are unable to go this week but I am assured will be ready to start without fail January 1st next - They were ready to go at the first appointment but owing to the fact that the Leader a Baptist Preacher must needs as he has recruited a new plantation it is deferred. I hope this may not inconvenience Mr Granger I am very confident of ultimate success with a large party, not less than fifty families.

P.S. I find I have to move slow with these people

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
W.J. Davis
Bvt Major Genl Supt R.F. & A.L.

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands
Office Genl Supt 4th Riv Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 26, 1866

Tyler Maj John A.A.G.
Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of one hundred Marriage certificate Blanks.

Very Respt Your Obedient Servant
W.J. Davis

A.A. Major
Asst Adjt General
Dept of the Arkansas
Little Rock Ark

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Office General Supt Ark Rd
Pine Bluff Dec. 26 1866

Major

I have the honor to report that Sergeant C.O. Sigenfuss Co. I. 28th Inft. reported to me voluntarily on yesterday stated he had been, was, absent from his command without leave since November 18th. I did not place the Sergeant in arrest but assigned him to duty till the will of the Major General commanding be known. I greatly desire to retain the services of the Sergeant as they are greatly needed here. I respectfully request and recommend that he may be restored without trial upon presenting a Certificate of previous good Character & the approval of this recommendation by his Company Commander & that he may be detailed for duty here.

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Wm. Downes,
Bvt Maj. Genl Supt R.F. & A.L.
Bureau R.F. & A.L. Office Genl Supt
Pine Bluff Dec 27th 1866

Genl. A.R.
Devan Lake Ark.

Sir

I have received your communication in the matter of complaint against Frank Williams of the 26th Inst. & beg to refer to Genl Ord for force to make the arrest & shall expect them here in time to be at your place to morrow evening. I hope you will have some one meet us on the road before arriving in the immediate neighborhood to advise us as to the best course to pursue to avoid alarming the accused

Very Respectfully
John Gibbs Lieut.
Wm Downes
Bvt Majr. Genl Supt Bureau R.F. & A.L.

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands
Pine Bluff Ark. Dec 27th 1866

Major John[illegible]
A.A.A.G.
Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Arkansas

Sir

I have the honor to return herewith the considerations of the Asst Comr. the papers in Case of Anderson Smith (Colored) vs S.R. Cocke[illegible] the following report

One evening some two weeks since Capt. Williams US Count Commissioner called at my office with the contract in question and desired to [illegible] the same for my consideration stating that [illegible] could have no redress in the civil courts because he could not give the required bonds and desired me to take up the case. I examined the matter hastily and stated to Captain Williams the following points which I was undetermined as to how they should be decided and desired to present for the action of the Asst Comr. 1st Whether the Bureau is designed to help Freedmen to obtain their rights when the Civil Courts present the same facilities to them as to Whites but they from poverty or other causes which affect White & Black the alike, are unable to avail themselves of them 2nd Whether the contract in question is a contract in the Bureau sense of the term as circular No 11 requires "All such agreements will be approved by the nearest agent and a duplicate filed in his office and, this was not filed in any office should or should not the rule of Circular No 11 requiring in case of such failure the settlement to be made by paying the highest wages given the same in this section apply or 3rd Whether the unauthorized action of the Acting Supt would be construed as a waiver upon the part of the Bureau of the requirements of Circular No 11. I desired Capt Williams to make a written application or statement in the matter

[illegible] brought with the contract for consideration [illegible] actions by the Asst Comr. Hearing nothing [illegible] until the 22nd inst. I supposed the matter had been settled or compromised & had received the endorsement of the 1st Lt. on the letter of Capt Williams. In compliance with the endorsement I appointed a day for the hearing of the case by the issue of a citation a copy of which accompanies the statement of Mr Cockerill dated is Marked A. On the day appointed Mr Cockerill, Capt Mallory and Frederick Smith and his attorney Mr. Martin appeared. I stated to them that I did not propose at that time to enter upon a final hearing of the case or to adjudicate any portion of it, but simply wished to get a full and complete statement of the whole matter made by each in the presence of the others that I might thereafter be able to make a report to Genl Ord. with a view of receiving from him further instructions as to the course he desired to be pursued. It was proposed that such statement be verbal and of a conversational nature and if thereupon a compromise & settlement could be effected well and good, if not that each party would make a written statement to accompany this report. The proposition was acted upon but no agreement for settlement could be made and the parties separated. This morning a statement prepared by Mr Cockerill was handed to me and is hereto attached Marked "B" also from Capt Mallory & marked "C" and from Smith by his attorney marked "D".

In forwarding this report I respectfully request an decision to the following questions and further instructions relative thereto. 1st Shall this controversy be left to the Civil Courts entirely? Civil can not give the required bond 2nd Shall it be submitted to a Bureau Court? 3rd How should a Bureau Court be constituted in this case for does it appear that there will be complaints of three individuals of whom one [illegible] of the Bureau is one and one to be selected by each of the other parties to make the three disinterested parties entitled to act upon the statements - Making four members if represented? 4th Is this a contract as regulated by the Bureau & should the bond & place be held by Military authority to secure payment of this freedman for his labor up I have the honor to request that I be [illegible] by telegraph immediately on receipt of this as to whether I shall hold this contract by Military Authority? It is now under my control

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Wm Logan
Bvt Maj Genl Supt R.F. &c

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Dec. 27th 1866

Maj. John A. A.G.
Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to transmit the original papers in the case of the Murder of Robt Sterrett colld by Frank Williams on the 23rd inst at Swan Lake for the consideration of the Asst Comr. There have been several cases of shooting and beating apparently with intent to kill in this vicinity of late and of which the civil authorities have taken jurisdiction, but they manage to do so in such a Milk & Water manner as to encourage rather than discourage crime. They do just enough to say the Civil Law reaches the case but no more.

I have long wanted a good opportunity to make an example - I think I have got one - The Father of this murdered boy walked all night last night to get here and tells a pitiful story I [illegible] arrest Williams who made Bond the 28th of Dec 66 inst. Please return these papers as I will need them in making my report and

with the force at my disposal have them
[illegible] to-night. I shall take both the dispositions
of all the parties on the grounds when I get them and
commit the whole with the prisoner if I can so for-
tunate as to get him.

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Jno Davies
Bvt Major & Asst Supt Bureau R.F. & A.L.

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 27th 1866

Major John A.A.G.
Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir,

I have the honor to report for the consideration of the Asst Comm the case of Geo Churchill a Freedman who rented a piece of land and cultivated Cotton - Only Three or four Bales have been raised in consequence of a failure of the Crop - Part of the hands employed by him left him in Mid summer seeing they would not raise cotton enough to pay them. The rest of the hands remained on the assurance of the Agent of the Bureau Capt Walker that they should have a lien on the cotton for their pay. Churchill owes largely for supplies used in making the crop - at last he gave a mortgage on the crop for supplies used the Mortgage is due and the Mortgagee is going to take the Cotton. Of late the hands on the place have furnished their own rations in order to get through and make the crop and get the pay for their year work as guaranteed to them by an Officer of this Bureau under the then existing rules.

The civil Courts are open to this man and they have all the remedies there that White men have under the circumstances. But the Court of Equity would give the cotton to the Mortgagee. It is to be ginned on Saturday & sent to Memphis immediately

Please notify me forthwith by telegraph what
I shall hold the Cotton and let me know the d
of the Asst Comr as soon as possible as many case
kind are now before me. In the Anderson D
Case sent you to day was involved the same
tion in the words "Whether the Bureau is de
to help Freedmen obtain their rights when the civ
grant the same facilities to them as to Whit
they from poverty & other causes which affect Wh
Black the same, are unable to avail themsel
them

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Jno Davies
Bvt Major. Gen Supt R.F. & A.L.
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, Abandoned Lands
Pine Bluff Dec 28th 1866

Tyler

Major John A.A.G.
Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark.

Major.

I respectfully ask to present
the following for the consideration of the Asst Comr. Appl
-cation is frequently made at this office by discharged
Colored soldiers in regard to their discharge papers - Upon
investigation it is found that their papers are not and
never have been in this office. They upon present a receipt in
their possession show, that their Certificates of discharge
have been taken by one Butts on the representation by him
that they were to go to the Bureau to be forwarded for
while in fact they were taken to a Claim Agency in
this City where 10 p Cent for all collections of soldiers claim
is retained - This Butts has collected large numbers of
these papers and as best them & his whereabouts are not
known. This agency have some three hundred of these p
a large proportion of which it is supposed were
obtained. I respectfully ask directions to take the
papers of two or more of these fraudulent acts have
been swindled and often times to take possession

[illegible] papers of colored soldiers in the
[illegible] Dept this Agency and hold them subject to [illegible]
Co Order

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Wm Dawes
Bvt Maj. Gen Supt Bureau R.F. & A.L.

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Dec 28th 66

Maj John
A.A.A.G. Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir

I have the honor to request to be allowed to file the enclosed Affidavit of Major McClure with the other papers in the case of the shooting of Robert Stewart & Cobb by Frank Williams, which were mailed to you last night

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Wm Dawes
Bvt Maj. Gen Supt R.F. & A.L.

I have the honor to be
Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Wm Dawes
Bvt Maj. Gen Supt.

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Dec 28th 18

Williams

Hon John A
U.S. Dist Comr.
Pine Bluff Ark
Sir

Your letter of 27th inst is before
I am at a loss to understand why you forward this
formation, If Mr Billings has been guilty of perjury which
from the communication would appear to be the case,
certainly would be the more proper person to present the
ject before the Authorities having jurisdiction

I fail to see how the prosecution of the case
would fall within the range of my official duties

Mr Billings is employed by me in behalf of the Govt.
in the claim Department and upon cause being shown
of his unfitness on account of crime his removal would
follow

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Wm Dawes
Bvt Maj Gen Supt R.F. & A Lands

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A Lands
Pine Bluff Dec 28th 1866

Genl

Maj O.D. A.A.G
Dept of Ark
Through Major John Tyler A.A.G.
Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark
Major

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of this date

such I am directed to report if the murdered man is a Freedman or if it is a clear case of murder for political causes & the proper civil authorities will not act. In compliance I have the honor to report that the murdered man Robert Stewart was a Freedmen. I know of no Political or other cause for the murder of this man except total depravity on the part of the criminal.

I reported the action of the civil authorities in this matter in my telegram of the 27th inst. which I judge by your enquiries you did not receive. It read "Letters from Genl Rice & Maj. McClure formerly U.S.V. & affidavit of father of deceased show shooting in cold Blood twenty miles below here - Justice of peace let murderer go on parole. Have sent word I wish be there with force to morrow Please send men to night for the accused has nothing to keep him in the country." I paid for the transmission of this telegram & if it has not been received the Comp. should account for it. For further particulars in the case I would respectfully refer you to Maj. Tyler A.A.A.G. of this Bureau to whom as fast as they were received I sent the affidavits in the case. These papers do not begin to show the atrocities of the case as it is reported verbally as people are fearful of revengeful injuries in case of their action. With circular No 30 before me I supposed it sufficient to ask for troops of the nearest commander & to make, by letter a full report of the case - If this murderer has escaped on account of my not making a full report of all the facts by telegraph when making the requisition for troops I trust the General will not hold me accountable although the law abiding public sentiment of this valley is with us as the order does not require it & it is to be easily presumed under the order that application would often be made to an inferior officer as e.g. was the case when Capt Wallace was in charge of this office & Lieut Wilcox in command of the Post troops - I judged that an application was sufficient & the responsibility of their use would be laid upon the superintendent. I was so well satisfied that this was the intent of the order that I acted as I did as delay would ruin everything & telegrams are expensive - I mailed the original affidavits

to Maj. Tyler before the date mentioned

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Wm. Dawes
Bvt Maj. Genl Supt Bureau

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 24

Tyler

Major John. A.A.G.
Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Sir

Enclosed herewith please find duplicate copy of commission as Notary Public of A. J. [illegible] before whom the parties applying for Bounty &c make oath. According to Circular Letter No 57 Bureau Refugees Washington D.C. When this is filed in the office it will prevent the necessity of the Certificate of Clerk of the Court in each case

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Wm Dawes
Bvt Maj. Gen Supt Bureau R & A L

Bureau Refugees F. & Abandoned Lands
Pine Bluff December 29th 66

Tyler

Maj. John A.A.G.
Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Arkansas

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith the following applications for Bounty Viz:

Emiline Walters Mother of
Andrew Walters late private Co. F 54th Reg't U.S.C.T. Infty
Andrew Jackson " " D 6th " " " "
Giles Hollins " " G " " " "
Samuel White " " " " " " "
Daniel McHenry " " B " " " "
Robert Oscar " " " " " " "
John Frazier " " A " " " "

Godfrey Colleen late Private Comp'y K 6th U.S.C.T. Infty
Stephen Irwin " " B " " " "
Elias White " " " " " " "

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Wm. Dawes,
Bvt Maj. Gen'l Supt Bureau R.F. and A.L.

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark. Dec'r 4th 66

Major John A.A.G.
Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the following Blanks

100 forms declarations for arrears of pay and bounty
100 forms applications of discharged soldiers for additional Bounty and to enquire if I am expected to make any "Returns" of these & other Blanks received and expended in this Office

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Wm. Dawes,
Bvt Maj. Gen'l Supt

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Dec 4. 1866

Clerk Circuit Court
Pine Bluff Ark

Sir

I have the honor to request you to furnish me a list of all the judges & Justices of Peace of the Counties of Jefferson Arkansas & Desha & their Post Office addresses as far as you may be able to do so as I wish to send them some circulars of public interest

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Wm. Dawes
Bvt Lieut Col Supt

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Dec. 4th 1866

Tyler

Maj. John A.A.G.
Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Arkansas

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Circulars 32 & 33 C.S. from your office to state that I find difficulty in reconciling them. Circular 32 deems a person guilty of a misdemeanor who shall subject an inhabitant to different penalties on account of his previous condition of servitude. than is prescribed for the punishment for White persons. Circular 33 directs that freedmen guilty of drunkenness will be fined not to exceed Ten dollars the punishment for drunkenness is inflicted by statutes of the state, I believe - the guilt is to be proven to the Agents of the Bureau & the fine imposed by freedmen and paid to them. What rule is to govern in the selection of the freedmen for the Jury and of how many is it to be composed? Who is to divide the money and in what proportion to each? Please give me full instructions as to how to enforce this circular as I anticipate a good deal of trouble as the persons who get drunk are the ones that make the most disturbance now. I am very glad to have some means at the disposal of the Superintendents to reach this evil if it can be so clear in its construction as to admit of no doubt in regard to the manner of its enforcement. I will suppose A.B. is contracted to A.B. A.B. is drunk some day & does no work in consequence during the forenoon & is charged by C.D. for half day lost & half day rations & he proves to Supt the man could not work on account of drunkenness. The fine 10 cts is charged against him & stopped from his wages. On the expiration of the contract A.B. refuses to accept the stoppage of 10 cts & appeals to me on the ground of being in violation of the Civil Rights Bill &

does not object to the stoppage of the fine &
refund or to payment of damage if need be to
C.D. but to the fine assessed & paid to the freedmen
What should I do in this case. I dont ask this
to be technical but the lawyers have got hold of
these Black people and are inventing up troubles to
get them into & I know I shall have scores of these
questions to answer.

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
W.J. Dawes
Bvt Maj. Asst Supt

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Dec 31st & Jan 1st 87

Bvt Maj Genl Lorenzo A. Gent USA
Maj Genl OO Commissioner
Bureau R.F. & A.L.

Sir.

I have the honor to report that I
am on duty at Pine Bluff Ark. as Asst Supt Bureau
Refugees, Freed. "Arkansas River District" by Authority
of SO. No 78 dated Office Asst Comr. Little Rock
Arkansas July 6th 1866

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
W.J. Dawes
Bvt Maj Asst Supt

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 29th 186

Maj John A Ass't G.
Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Sir

The following is respectfully
presented for the consideration of the Asst Comr. I
desire immediately after New year day to make a
canvas of my whole District. I have heretofore on
account of ill health been unable to travel only by
Boat on the river consequently have not had
such acquaintance with the condition & wan
the people in charge of whom I am placed
is required. The large plantations all stret
along each side of the river. My plan is
at this point & go down this side to the
of my jurisdiction then cross over & come
the other side to the Western limit & then
cross the river & return on this side to place
starting. To make a hasty call at each
tation on or near the route & this will embrace
all of them & take memoranda on blanks (a pre
ly prepared) of Name of owner, Name of person
tivating, Name of overseer, No of Acres, No of
No of Males, No of Females, No of Children, No of
Land, Rate of wages, No sick, Desire for schools,
destitute, General information &c. There will
other heads that I shall insert when preparin
my papers if the plan is approved. I shall spe
to the hands on each place when it is decided
opportunity can be had. I wish to take with
me an escort of one non Commissioned Officer &
four men in order to give moral force to the
expedition & that both & all parties may see that
the Bureau is not a dead letter, but would be
felt if occasion required. I intend to make the
establishment of plantation schools a prominent
object & also to see what new contracts are mad
and how old ones are complied with in the settle
ments. There are several cases I have been calle
upon to act when my personal attendance seem
necessary I have postponed till this contemplate
trip. If a Hospital Steward with vaccine matter
could be detailed to accompany us he and
myself could vaccinate the whole number of fam
ilies with but little delay as recommended in
my last monthly report. This is very important
as this year whole plantations have been given
up via account of the ravages of this disease

I can not enumerate all I design to accomplish without making this letter too long but expect to condense it all in a very important report to lay before the Commissioner on our return. Should this be approved I request that the necessary Arms Stores & Horse Equipments for my own use be sent to me. I expect but little expense to the Govt. will be made as once the planters on the route will be pleased to entertain the escort. I wish every man sent to be a good man that if we are looked upon as a "Guerilla squad" it may not be derogatory to the Govt. we represent. I would further request that Mr. J. Oldyman one of the Teachers of Colored schools may accompany me to aid in awakening an interest in Schools & gathering information in regard to Plantation schools & that he may be furnished a horse & equipments by the Govt. He can be spared from his duties here without in any manner interfering with the school

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Wm. Dames.
Bvt Maj. Genl Supt.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Decr 29th 1866

Tyler
Maj. John A. Eaton
Little Rock
Ark.

Sir
I have the honor to report
I received your telegram of this day in
of Anderson Smith & S. R. Cockrill &
pliance sent to each of the parties inte
a notice of which the enclosed is a copy
to sent Sergeant Lignugus in the morning
remain on the place in care of the cotton
further instructions are received

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Wm. Dames
Bvt Maj. Genl Supt.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Dec 29th 1866

Green
Col. Maj. Gen. A.A.G.
Dept of Arkansas
Through Maj. Tyler A.A.A.G. R. F. & L.
Little Rock Arkansas

Sir
I have the honor to acknowledge
the receipt of your circular letter of the 26th inst
& to explain that my action in the Williams
Murder case was had before the Circular was
received or I should most certainly have been
guided by it in my actions. My authority for
Action taken was circular No 30 dated Bureau
R. F. & A. L. Little Rock Ark. Dec 11th 1866 being of
earlier date than your letter just received. I shall hereafter be guided by its provisions & shall make application
for authority to visit Arkansas Co. & bring the case before
the proper Civil Authorities of the state

Very Respectfully Your Obedt Servant
Wm. Dames
Bvt Maj. Genl Supt.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Decr 29th 1866

Tyler
Maj. John A. Eaton
Little Rock Arkansas

Sir
I have the honor to state that I was informed of a most Brutal Murder of a Freedman had been perpetrated in Arkansas County by a White man & that the civil Authorities fail or refuse to act in the case respectfully ask for authority to go to said county & investigate the matter

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Wm. Dames.
Bvt Maj. Genl Supt.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Dec 24. 1866

To whom it may concern

You are hereby notified that in accordance with instructions this day received from Maj Genl Ord Asst Commissioner I have seized and hold subject to his order all the cotton on the place above and near Pine Bluff Ark known as the "Byrd Place" and cultivated this year under a contract by & between S. R. Cockrill & Sam Mallory and all persons are forbidden removing said cotton from the premises until authority to do so is obtained from the Asst Comm'r & the cotton released by due procis of Law

Wm Dawes
Bvt Maj & Capt 23 U. S. C. T.
Asst Supt
Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Dec. 29th 1866

Dispatches Sergt C. O.

Sergt

You will proceed by the first Boat up the Arkansas River to the Byrd Place and on arriving there report to the person in charge the fact that you are sent there to take possession of all the cotton remaining on the place by order of Maj Genl Ord and to hold it subject to said orders from him. You will allow the cotton to be prepared for market in picked & Baled but will not allow it to leave the premises. You will notify any and all persons assuming or exercising any control over the cotton or the officer of any Boat proposing to receive it the nature of your authority and duties by reading to them your instructions & the enclosed notice & should any person or persons thereafter undertake to remove said cotton you will resist their attempts, by force if necessary and should they in any event be successful and remove the cotton or any portion of it you will report the fact at this office without delay

Very Respectfully
Wm Dawes
Bvt Maj Genl

Bureau R. F. & A. Lands
Pine Bluff Ark
Dec 31st 1866

Tyler

Maj. John A.A.G.
Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Arkansas
Maj.

In compliance with or... I have the honor to transmit herewith my m... by report of labors.

Since my last report a change in ... district has been made by abolishing the local ... in the counties of Jefferson and Arkansas. As there ... been no local Officer in Arkansas Co. since early ... last summer and as I have been acting as local ... Superintendent in this Co. there is but little change ... in the daily routine of business

Local offices abolished

Nature of duties

The duties of the office have become to be principally those of an advisory nature. A large crowd of freedmen are usually in attendance desiring information as to their rights and as to the best course to pursue to obtain them. Thus while the records show but little done much good is being accomplished and of the most necessary character. Many contracts have been settled up and in several instances where large interests at stake and the various interests not clearly defined and apparently conflicting. Arbitrations have been recommended and agreed upon.

Arbitrations

Corps

There is still a large amount of cotton in the field not picked out. Many planters have finished picking and made settlements with their hands. I am of the opinion that the most of the labor for the coming year will be for a share of the crop

of any freedmen ingoing at the office of the Bureau for advice as to a place for labor and applications for hands are often made by employers. Large sums as bounties are paid to agents to procure hands for those desiring them & any intimation by an officer of the Bureau to a freedman as to his best course in finding a place would immediately cause the cry of coercion. It would be well if the office of this agent could be a sort of Intelligence office where both parties could apply for labor if it could be so managed, guarded & conducted as to be above suspicion. This subject is earnestly recommended to the consideration of the Asst Comr.

During the month general applications for teachers of plantation schools have been made.

The report of the teachers of the schools in the city show 102 pupils in the day and 18 in the night Schools and 95 in the Sabbath Schools. I have visited the schools during the month & can report them favorably of their conduct. The progress of the pupils is satisfactory, but there is not as much interest taken by the whites or freedmen as I had hoped to see the teachers seem to understand the children & seem their affections.

Great improvements have just been completed in the school building & it can now be kept light warm & it is hoped the new year will open with a large increase in number of pupils.

Hospital — The Hospital will be greatly improved by being made much warmer and more comfortable. The number of patients is reported at + attendants at

Orphans — No orphan children have been indentured during the month

Freedmen — A party is organizing under the superintendence of Mr. Goodrich Stevens of Bureau R. F. & A. L. for the purpose of selecting homesteads under the Act of Congress for about fifty families.

Quite a large number of Claims of discharged Colored soldiers have been prepared during the month & only await the of blanks to perfect them that they may be forwarded. In ten cases they have been fully perfected and forwarded.

Very Respectfully
Your obedient Servant
W. J. Dames.
Bvt Maj & Capt 27th USC

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Dec 31st 1866

Page

Army Col & A. A. G.
Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith my Monthly report of Persons & Articles & accompanying Vouchers & to request you to send me Check by mail for the Amount called for

Very Respectfully
Your obedient Servant
W. J. Dames.
Bvt Maj. Genl Supt

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Dec 31st 1866

Dr. Mar. Gen'l U.S.A.
Washington D.C.

Sir

I have the honor to request authority to transfer the Articles upon my return of A. A. Gen'l Stores to my return of Bureau R. F. & A. L. Stores as the articles are in use in this office & to simplify my returns

Very Respectfully
Your obedient Servant
W. J. Dames
Bvt Maj & Asst Q. M. U.S.V.

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Dec. 31st 1866

Brig Gen C. Commissioner
Washington DC.

Through Maj Gen Ord USA
Asst Comm Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith Monthly return of Bureau R.F. & A.L. Stores for the month ending Dec 31st 1866

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Wm Dawes
Bvt Maj & Capt Asst 23d U.S.C.
Dist Supt

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Dec. 31st 1866

Quarter Master Genl USA
Washington DC.

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith my monthly Return of L.M. Stores for the Month ending Dec 31st 1866

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Wm Dawes
Bvt Maj. Capt Asst Q.M. 23d U.S.C.
Dist Supt

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Dec 31st 1866

Quarter Master General of the Army
Washington DC

Sir

I have the honor to transmit enclosed my monthly Return of C. & G.E. for the month ending Dec 31st 1866

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Wm Dawes
Bvt Maj. Capt Asst Q.M. 23d U.S.C.
Dist Supt

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 31st 1866

Freedmen

Sept Napoleon

Sir

I wish you to procure me a list of all the Judges & Justices of the Peace of your County & their Post Office address. Your report of Nov 1st required by Circular 21 has not been received at this Office to this time

My respectfully
your Obt Servt
Wm Dawes
Bvt Maj Genl Supt

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Dec 31st 1866

Clerk of Court
Arkansas Co. DeWitt.

Sir

I have the honor to request that I be furnished a list of the Judges & Justices of the Peace in your County & their Post Office addresses as I wish to mail to them Circular papers of public interest

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Wm Dawes
Bvt Maj Genl Supt

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A.L.
Office Genl Supt Central Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 31st 1866

Calhoun Jesse
Brownfield Byron

To whom it may concern

Be it known by upon reliable evidence presented at this office, that certain sums of

wages are due some of the freedmen for labor in cultivating the crop of cotton on the plantation near Richland and worked by Jesse Calhoun and Theron Brownfield. Now it is to forbid the removal of any portion of said crop from the premises until all such claims are fully paid. Any person or persons aggrieved by the seizure of the cotton will be heard at this office at any time they may appear. On the matter of difference may be submitted to a civil Court of competent jurisdiction, and the cotton seized will be subject to the authority of said Court

W. J. Davis.
Bvt Maj Capt 23 U.S. Col Inf Supt

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & L
Office Genl Supt Ark Riv Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 31st 1866

Simpson & Co Athens

To all whom it may concern -

Whereas it appears upon the statement of Freedmen employed on the H. Simpson plantation in Arkansas Co Ark. that they are entitled to a share of the cotton raised on said place. all persons are forbidden to remove any of said Cotton from the premises until all the claims of said Freedmen are fully determined and paid - Any person or persons aggrieved by this seizure of cotton will be heard at my office at any time. And should the matter of difference be adjusted before any competent civil authority the cotton so seized will be subject to the judgment of ~~such~~ such Court -

W. J. Davis.
Bvt Maj. Capt 23 U.S. Col Inf Supt

My cotton released by Col Williams Jan 7th 1867

Bureau R. F. & L.
Pine Bluff Dec 31. 1866

Col Wm Williams (Col'd)
Sir

You are hereby directed to deliver to Commodore Perry the bearer of this order the person of a latter boy named Perry that he may be brought before me to be provided for as the circumstances of the case shall not at present require

W. J. Davis
Bvt Maj Gen

Bureau Refugees Freedmen &
Office Genl Supt Ark Riv.
Pine Bluff Ark Jan

Sylvester Maj John A.A.G.
Bureau R.F. & L.
Little Rock
Pine Bluff

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of instruction in the case of Anderson Smith & Coalsill and to state that I shall proceed immediately to comply with them -

I respectfully ask that so much of your letter under the 4th clause as reads "and the courts in your district are now reported by you as unlikely to do full justice" may be stricken out as by some error in reading or in some other manner. I am made to say just the opposite of what I have said and what is the truth. I believe the courts will give the same justice to blacks as to whites -

The 1st part of the 4th clause does not correspond with my understanding of the matter as I believe Anderson Smith's testimony is good in the courts of this county but as I am not made responsible for the statement I am satisfied

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
W. J. Davis
Bvt Maj Gen

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abd
Office Genl Supt Ark Dist.
Pine Bluff Ark Jan 1st 1867

L R
Pine Bluff Ark

Sir

I have the honor to respectfully call upon you to appoint a reffree to sit as a member of a reference court in the matter of the claim of Anderson Smith Against L R Cockrill. and to request you to notify me of the appointment so made to enable me to arrange a time of assembling of said court

Very respectfully
Your obt servant
W J Davis
Bvt Maj Genl Supt

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abd
Office Genl Supt Ark Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Jan 1st 1867

Smith Anderson
Pine Bluff Ark

Sir

I have the honor respectfully to call upon you to appoint a reffree to sit as a member of a reference court in the matter of claim of Anderson Smith Against L R Cockrill and to request you to notify me of the appointment so made to enable me to arrange a time of assembling of said court.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servant
W J Davis
Bvt Maj Genl Supt

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abd
Office Genl Supt Ark Dist
Pine Bluff Jan 1st 1867

Sir

I have the honor to appoint you a member of a reference court by Command of Maj Genl Steele to hear and determine the matter of difference between Anderson Smith and L R Cockrill and upon notice of action by you will notify you of time and place of meeting.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
W J Davis
Bvt Maj Genl Supt

Bureau R F & A L.
Pine Bluff Ark
January 5th 1867

Tyler

Maj John A A G
Bureau R F & A L
Little Rock Arkansas

Sir

I have the honor to report that on the evening of Jan. 4th 1867 Sergt. Best 28th Indy. and 3 mounted men reported to me for duty as required by your letter of Dec. 29th ult. In conformity with your instructions to me in said letter we immediately proceeded on the duty designated making a ride of nine miles before it became so dark as to require us to halt for the night. On the morning of the 2nd we resumed our journey & before noon arrived within six miles of the place where Williams was employed. We there stopped and sent a man with a sealed letter to Glenn Rice informing him of our plans and desiring his cooperation He sent back a letter stating that Williams was away but would be back in the evening and that I could come down without exciting suspicion and that the men could remain after dark. I followed the suggestion and result was the arrest of Williams without

I bid the prisoner on a horse + tied the Arms Head to the Head of my horse + rode to the Landing of Upper Swan Lake where we were obliged to wait forty eight hours for a Boat. I would have brought him up by land if I had anticipated so much delay. I did not deem it necessary to accompany the guard to Little Rock as they seemed to be faithful and reliable + aware of the responsibility resting upon them + the business of my office absolutely requiring my attention. I telegraphed you to day the fact that the prisoner was sent on the Absaree under guard. Great Praise is due Sergt Best + the Private under his direction for the ready compliance with instructions + great vigilance in care of the prisoner. During the time we were waiting for a Boat a public Sale of personal property occurred at Swan Lake which brought together a large number of people from the surrounding Country. I mixed more or less with the crowd to hear their sentiments + Judge of their feelings + am pained to state that they were far different from what I would have been pleased to have found. Expressions like these were common "No (Wilkins) ought to be paid for shooting the damn son of a bitch." Reliable property owning citizens seemed to be afraid to express any sympathy with Justice exceptt and then in private + confidentially with me. They were afraid of the destruction of their property. Williams fully acknowledged to me the killing + stated that any man that had any self respect for himself would have shot the damn nigger. & can account for the act on any hypothesis except that of utter depravity. The best witnesses of the shooting + the persons who heard all the talk are Allen Clay, Charlotte Corbett + Judy + are hired for the ensuing year on the Lee Green Maj. McClure place. They are intelligent. John + Linda Beard the boys parents are engaged to work this year on the Col. Johnson place near this city. I saw the Justice of the Peace to whom Williams surrendered + by requesting him to do so he [illegible] ment of his action + his reasons therefor & see but little Justification in it. The shooting took place + was done when I first telegraphed you came to the Barrance, got his information + home several days without acting upon it. E[illegible] especially a magistrate is supposed to know th[illegible] I do not know what use he had for a constable when the prisoner had given himself up to him + his hands to be disposed of. If a dog had been by would have done something no doubt. I do believe we shall ever see Law + order prevail in this community till Law officers are taught that they must do their duty promptly + when [illegible] as a party. I think the good citizens in that neighborhood are fearful of being revenged upon if they left a hand in this matter + evil disposed persons say "served the nigger right". I am of the opinion that the Justice has pursued a course in this matter of which complaint should be made I transmit his statement. Should the Asst Com[illegible] desire further action in any of the matters connected herewith I respectfully request instructions

Have the honor to be
Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Wm Dagues
Bvt Maj + Capt 13 U.S.R.C.
Genl Supt

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff.
June 7. 1866.

6.0. Post of Little Rock
Brigt Maj. Tyler A.A.G.
Bureau R. F. & A.L.

Sir

I have the honor to send you under guard Sergt. C. Oligen[illegible]

I tied the prisoner on a horse & tied the Rascals Head to the Head of my horse & rode to the Landing of Upper Swan Lake where we were obliged to wait forty eight hours for a Boat & would have brought him up by land if I had anticipated so much delay. I did not deem it necessary to accompany the guard to Little Rock as they seemed to be faithful and reliable & aware of the responsibility resting upon them & the business of my office absolutely requiring my attention. I telegraphed you to day the fact that the prisoner was sent on the Adanci under guard. Great Praise is due Sergt Best & the privates under his direction for the ready compliance with instructions & great vigilance in care of the prisoner. During the time we were waiting for a Boat a public Sale of personal property occurred at Swan Lake which brought together a large number of people from the surrounding Country. I mixed more or less with the crowd to hear their sentiments & judge of their feelings & am pained to state that they were far different from what I would have been pleased to have forhood. Expressions like this were common "the Nigs claims ought to be paid for shooting the damn son of a bitch." Reliable property owning citizens seemed to be afraid to express any sympathy with Justice or assist and stretch privately & confidentially with me. They were afraid of the destruction of their property. Williams fully acknowledged to me the killing & stated that any man that had any self respect for himself would have shot the damn nigger. & can account for the act on any hypothesis except that of utter depravity. The best witnesses of the shooting & the persons who heard all the talk are Allen Clay, Charlotte Smith & Friedman & are hired for the ensuing year with the Exception of Mrs McClain's place they are intelligent. John & Linda Beck & the boys Jim & Jo are engaged to work this year on the Col. Johnson place near this city. I saw the Justice of the Peace to whom Williams surrendered & by requesting him to do so he jeopardized a commitment of his action & this record therefore does not little Justice to it. The shooting took place & was done when I first telegraphed you & came to the Bureau, got his information & went home several days without acting upon it. Every one especially a magistrate is supposed to know the law & do not know what use he had for a constable when the prisoner had given himself up to him & his hands to be disposed of. If a dog had been by he would have done something no doubt. I do not believe we shall ever see Law & order prevail in this community till Civil officers are taught that they must do their duty promptly & when fired upon as a party. I think all good citizens in that neighborhood are fearful of being revenged upon if they lift a hand in this matter & evil disposed persons say "served the nigger right." I am of the opinion that the Justice has pursued a course in this matter of which complaint should be made I transmit his statement. Should the Asst Comr desire further action in any of the matters connected herewith I respectfully request instructions

Have the honor to be
Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Wm Dagues
Bvt Maj & Capt 13 U.S.C.
Genl Supt

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff.
Jan 7. 1866.

6.8. Post of Little Rock
Brigh Maj. Tyler A.A.G.
Asst Comr R. F. & A. L.

Sir

I have the honor to send you under guard Sergt. C. Eisenfus

&c &c. as required by indorsement of 7th inst. thereon upon the enclosed communication

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
W. J. Dawes
Bvt Maj. Capt 23 U.S.C.T.
Asst Supt.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff
Jan. 9. 1867.

Maj. Jno. A. Ely.
Supt Bureau
Little Rock

Sir

Inclosed herewith please find the application for Bounty of
Gabriel Smith Co A. 16th U.S.C.T.
Jacob Robinson " " " " "
James Upshaw " " " " "
Kingsley Blackwell " " " " "
Capt Davis " " " " "
Abram Elliott " " " " "
Jim Sneed " " " " "
Jesse Marks " " " " "
Calvin Lindsley " " " " "
Isaac Markly " " " " "

In the case of Hyden Jackson sent you Dec 29th ult.. You will find an error in the endorsement it should be Sergeant instead of Private

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servant
W. J. Dawes
Bvt Maj Genl Supt.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark Jan 7. 1867

Lt Henry Agnew
Bureau R. F. & A. L.

Sir

I have the honor to transmit account for expenses in pursuit of Frank Williams. If you wish me to account for the expenses on Eleanor, please put them on the account and the money if you have paid it, and remit the rest as usual

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servant
W. J. Dawes
Bvt Maj. Genl Supt

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A.L.
Office Genl Supt. Ark Pine District
Pine Bluff Ark Jan 8th 1867

Smith Anderson
vs
Cockrill S.R.

To whom it may concern.

You are hereby notified that the reference court appointed by order of Major General Ord. Assistant-Commissioner in the case of Anderson Smith &c vs. S.R. Cockrill will convene for the hearing of said case at the office of Martin & Williams in the city of Pine Bluff on Wednesday the 9th inst at 10. o'clock A.M.

W. J. Dawes Capt. U.S.C.
Bvt Maj. Genl Supt

Bureau Refugees. Freedmen & A.L.
Office Genl Supt Ark Pine Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Jan (8th) 9th 1867

Williams vs. D.
(McCracken R.V.)
Pine Bluff Ark

Sir

In compliance with instructions from Maj. Genl Ord Assistant Commissioner I do hereby appoint and respectfully request you to act as a member of a reference Court in the case of Smith vs. S.R. Cockrill to convene

[illegible] Williams in the city of Pine Bluff
[illegible] by the 1st inst at 10 o'clock A.M.

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servant
Wm Dawes Capt USA
Bvt Maj Genl Supt

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abd
Office Genl Supt Ark Riv Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Jan 1st 1867

Col Gorsuch
Pine Bluff Ark

Sir

You are hereby appointed Deputy Provost Marshal of Arkansas River District for the purpose of being in attendance on, and at a Reference Court called by order of General Ord for the trial of the case of Anderson Smith, Col. U.S. A.A.C. Cockrill, and are empowered to serve all processes and perform all duties imposed upon you by order of said Court in conformity to law and the orders of the War Department.

Wm Dawes Capt USA
Bvt Maj Genl Supt & Pro Mar
Arkansas River Dist

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abd
Office Genl Supt Ark Riv Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Jan 1st 1867

Montgomery Col A.A.G.M. USA
Little Rock Ark
Through Maj Tyler

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of package from your containing the various papers of the sale and transfer of Govt Property at this place. I should be most happy to be of any assistance in the manner proposed —

The receipt and transfer of property sent me do not correspond with the wants of the Govt in any previous applications. The three story building is the one which has been taken and now occupied for school purposes, etc. Log [illegible] is needed for any purpose I am aware of. Sash and Glass have been provided by purchase. Please make the papers for one board building house 14 x 32 —

4000 feet of Lumber

I visited the Corral yesterday and find one of the Log buildings has entirely disappeared. Other depredations have been committed on the remaining ones.

Very respectfully
Your obedient Servt
Wm Dawes
Bvt Maj Genl Supt

Bureau R F & A L
Office Genl Supt Ark Riv Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Jan 9th 1867

Montgomery Col Agm
Little Rock Ark

Col

I have the honor to state that I have not received any commutation for fuel and quarters for December 66. that I forwarded the accounts early in the month. and that I am in great need of the money — If you can remit me a check for the amount at an early day, you will greatly oblige me —

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
Wm Dawes
Bvt Maj Genl Supt

Bureau R F & A L
Office Genl Supt Ark
Pine Bluff Ark

Brig Col Montgomery
[illegible]

Col

I have the honor to request you to forward to me a check for the amount of Vouchers forwarded you for December 66 at as early a day as will be practicable, as all parties interested are greatly in need of money.

Very Respectfully
Your Ob't Servt
W J Dawes
Bvt Maj Genl Supt

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & C
Office Genl Supt Ark Riv Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Jan 17, 1867

Tyler Maj Gen O A Gregg
Commd'g D & A
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to state that I have thoroughly distributed throughout the Counties of Jefferson and Arkansas Copies of Circulars No 29 and No 30 and have informed verbally large numbers of planters that the local offices for those counties were discontinued and that it would no longer be requisite that contracts with freedmen for labor be approved by an agent of the Bureau or filed in his office - I consider it but justice to all parties that they be informed at as early a day as possible that the offices are in existence and some of the leading requirements of them. I respectfully request that one hundred and fifty copies of the enclosed notice may be printed by order of the Assistant Commissioner and furnished me for distribution -

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
W J Dawes
Bvt Maj Genl Supt

The following circular

See pending letter

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & C
Office Genl Supt & Disb Agt
Arkansas River District
Pine Bluff Ark Jan

To whom it may concern -

The local offices of this Bureau will be c
from this date in Arkansas and Jefferson
Contracts with freedmen for labor for this
will be made in duplicate and approved by an
of the Bureau and a copy filed in his office -
Contract will contain a condition that the em
shall not sell or furnish to the freedmen intox
liquors of any kind except as medicine and for sic
uses on penalty of forfeiting the right to hold
the laborer to his contract - Contracts will
be approved with those planters who have defraud
their employees, or are well known to be cruel to
their hands -

Any person who shall be found guilty
of enticing any freedman from his employer know
ing said freedman to be bound by
Contract may be fined by the Superintendent - All
persons employing freedmen knowing them to be
under contract to labor for other parties, must pay
the full wages earned by said freedman to the party
holding the contract for his services -

Persons who refuse or neglect to make written
Contracts for the year with the freed people em-
ployed by them will be required should dispute
arise as to compensation to pay the highest wages
given for the same in their section of the country -

The establishment of plantation schools Genl
throughout the district is earnestly recommended and
aid will be cheerfully rendered them by this office -

Any information upon subjects connected with
the labors of the Bureau will be promptly furnished
upon application personally or by letter -

W J Dawes Capt &
Bvt Maj Genl

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Office Asst. Supt. Ark. Riv. Dist.
Pine Bluff Ark. Jan 10. 1867

Maj. John A.A.G.
Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 8th inst. in regard to revocation of orders discontinuing local offices of Bureau in the counties of Jefferson and Arkansas.

As the local office of Arkansas county is without an Agent and it should seem to be a great hardship to require the inhabitants of that county both black and white to come to this place or Napoleon to transact their business. I would respectfully request the appointment of an Agent for that office. I would greatly prefer the appointment of a Commissioned Officer of the Army as he would be less likely to be allied or entangled with any parties or interests that would conflict with the discharge of his duties which at the best are of an exceedingly delicate nature —

Should there be no officer or civilian to be spared I would respectfully recommend the appointment of William D. Soule. This gentleman was formerly Major of 4th U.S. Col'd Heavy Artillery and has been planting in Jefferson Co the past year. I know him to be every way qualified for the position. He would expect a salary of $150 per month and the usual allowance of forage. Office rent. Clerk and Stationery. He would be engaged in no other business and devote his whole time to the interests committed to his care.

Very respectfully
Your obt. Servt.
W. J. Davis,
Bvt. Maj. Genl. Supts.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A.L.
Office Asst. Supt. Ark. Riv. Dist.
Pine Bluff Ark. Jan

Howell Thos J
Provost Court

Sir

In compliance with your ... I have the honor to furnish you a certified ... of so much of my instruction as refers to the ... a court in the case of Anderson Smith Col'd ... S.R. Cockrill and while I have no doubt it ... desire of the War Dept that all parties should ... a full hearing as well upon the question of ju... diction as upon the merits of the case, you will ... be abundantly authorized in refusing any inter... ference in your proceedings by the unreasonable pr... sistence of lawyers as will be seen by the following ... extract from an endorsement by Maj Genl Ord U.S.A.

"If lawyers attempt to interfere, notify them that ... their interference with the provisions of the bill cre... ating the Bureau, and the Civil Rights Bill which ... give exclusive jurisdiction to you, will subject ... them to arrest, and when proper you will take ... all cases of freedmen out of their hands. The only ... way to silence lawyers is to use military force ... and not allow them to be the judges of your ... proceedings."

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
W. J. Davis,
Bvt Maj. Genl Supts

Bureau Refugees F. & A.L.
Office Genl Supt Ark Riv Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Jan 10th 1867

Tyler Maj John A.A.G.G.
Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Major

I have the honor to report my action in the case of the cotton seized by the plantation of Col P. Dobozy and to transmit a copy of my notice in the case -

The freedmen had claims for labor on the place amounting to about $6500; Col Dobozy had executed a deed of trust to Col M L Bell - The real owner of the cotton is doubtful - Col Bell and Col Dobozy both want the hands paid and they should be paid from the proceeds of the cotton - Col Bell is willing to pay them from such proceeds if he can have such an order as his voucher in the settlement with the heirs of the owner - he does not do it without - Unless such an order is issued the freedmen will not receive their pay - I have therefore made the order -

If my action is not approved please notify me without delay as it will be immediately carried into effect -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servant
W. J. Dawes.
Bvt Maj. Genl Supt

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Office Genl Supt Ark Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Jan 10th 1867

To whom it may concern:

You are Hereby notified that by authority vested in me as an Agent of this Bureau I have seized so much of the crop of cotton raised by Col P. Dobozy in the county of Jefferson Ark as may be required to pay the freedmen employed in its cultivation - And all persons are forbidden removing or disposing of said cotton until all the freedmen above mentioned are fully paid for their labor - Any one holding or claiming such cotton will cause full payment to be made said freedmen, after which this seizure will cease -

W. J. Dawes.
Bvt Maj. Genl Supt

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abd
Office Genl Supt Ark Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Jan

Tyler Maj John A A G
Bureau R F & A L
Little Rock Ark

Sir

It is frequently a matter
great delicacy for me to determine how much
orders I receive it is proper for me to make
There are many of them it appears to me it w
be of great benefit to have widely circulated - I
this opinion of Circulars etc to 33. of Dec 21st 1866 - D
kindness is so great an evil and the remedies
proposed are so effectual. I greatly desire to g
publicity to ~~them~~ the Circulars - I respectfully
request Authority to present a copy to each of th
papers here for them to publish if they see fit
and that I be furnished a hundred copies for dis
tribution in my district

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
W. J. Dawes.
Bvt Maj Genl Supt

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A L
Office Genl Supt Ark Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Jan 11th 1867

Tyler Maj John A A G
Bureau R F & A L
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to state
that a freedman was shot in this city this morning, the ball passing through his body in the region of his left breast - I have presented the case for the action of the civil Authorities - I think the action of the civil courts too uncertain to secure justice

Capt Dawes will mention the case of Mr Dobozy & his assistance - Some two weeks ago a freedman came to my office with his clothes completely saturated with blood. And reported that Dobozy had left him while riding beat him over the head with a pistol - He brought five or six witnesses (Col) who corroborated his statement in every particular - I sent them to a magistrate who determined it was an assault with intent to kill and proposed the case go to the Grand Jury then setting - The case was presented to the Grand Jury and that is the last known about it - The accused are on their plantation raising cotton and the freedmen hiring out to different parties in various places - No one will soon know where - I respectfully request authority to determine that the civil authorities neglect to act and to bring the case before the U S Circuit Commissioner, or to myself arrest the parties and send them to you to be subject to the orders of the Major General -

I cannot secure the safety of these people if such aggravated cases are allowed to go unnoticed -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
Wm J Dawes -
Bvt Maj & Genl Supt

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abd
Office Genl Supt Ark Riv Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Jan 11th 1867

Gen Maj John A Rawlins
Asst Adjt Genl
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to report that I employed an Attorney to prosecute the case of Conrad of shooting the negro in this city this morning, by writers of the 2nd Inst Gen Order No 8 - Asst Dept July 1866 -

The freedman is without means and the case is one that will require much investigation that I could not give it myself. And if I had not employed a person it would have been done - The District Attorney is away - I trust my action will be approved by the Assistant Commissioner -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
Wm J Dawes
Bvt Maj Genl &c

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abd
Office Genl Supt Ark Riv Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Jan 12, 1867

Montgomery Col A
Dept Adjt Genl
Little Rock Ark

Col

Your letter excepting from the sale four Cabins is received and will be complied with.

Genl Ord informs me he has turned over to the Agent here the whole subject of burial grounds in this city -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
Wm J Dawes
Bvt Maj Genl Supt

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abd
Office Genl Supt Ark Riv Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Jan 12, 1867

Commanding Officer Pine Bluff

Sir

I respectfully request you to furnish a guard of a non commissioned officer and one

for six days to take charge of a lot of cotton on the Wyatt place near Pine Bluff Ark. Seized and held by order of Maj Genl Ord. Asst Commissioner - I will furnish them written instructions from this office

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
Wm J. Dawes.
Bvt Maj. Genl Supt

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abd
Office Genl Supt Ark Ris Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Jan 12. 1867

Tyler Maj John AAAG
Bureau R F & Abd
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to state that Genl Ord has directed that Maj Hale proceed to Clark as requested in my letter of the 10th inst, and that his name be sent forwarded to Genl Howard for Approval -

Very Respectfully
Your obt Servt
Wm J Dawes
Bvt Maj Genl Supt

Bureau R F & Abd
Office Genl Supt Ark Ris Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Jan 12. 1867

Tyler Maj John AAAG
Bureau R F & Abd
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to state in reference to my application of the 10th inst in regard to publication of Circulars the Asst Comr has directed it's publication in this place -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
Wm J Dawes
Bvt Maj Genl Supt

Bureau R F & Abd
Office Genl Supt Ark
Pine Bluff Ark Jan

Page Col Henry A qm
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I transmit enclosed
ceipts for B.B. & Gl - The box of Station
was lost by the boat and cannot be
I have not signed the bill of lading ab
document and respectfully request you
duplicate the goods as soon as conv
ient as I am in great need of some of the
I also forward Requisition for Stationa
for the office in Arkansas Co Please send
to this place as early as may be and I will
send it down from here -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
Wm Dawes
Bvt Maj Genl Supt

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abd
Office Genl Supt Ark Ris Dis
Pine Bluff Ark Jan 12, 1867

Hale Maj Wm D
Supt Ark Co. Ark

Sir

In compliance with the in-
structions of the Assistant Commissioner you
are appointed an agent of this Bureau for Arkansas
County Ark. Subject to the approval of the Com-
missioner of the Bureau to perform the duties
of Superintendent to date from Jan 10th 1867
You will proceed immediately in company
with the Genl Supt to the county to which you
are assigned and locate an office according to
direction - You will procure from Capt
Crawford Fletcher late Supt all the Records, Books and

Refusing of the office accepting to him therefor
and he and he performs the duties of
your office in conformity to the rules and reg-
ulations prescribed by the Commissioner and
other officers under whose authority you
are placed -

Any questions arising causing grave
doubts in your mind as to your duty in the
case will be referred to the Assistant Commissioner
through this office -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt -
W. J. Davis
Bvt Maj Genl Supt -

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A L
Office Genl Supt & Provost Marshal
Arkansas River District
Pine Bluff Ark Jan 13, 1867

Sykes Maj John A.A.G.
Bureau R F & L
Little Rock Ark

Sir,

I have the honor to forward for the
consideration of the Assistant Commissioner the Record
and Papers in the case of Anderson Smith (Colored) vs
D. A. Cockrill.

The proceedings are approved - So much of the finding
as awards - for 220 Bushels of Corn at $1.50 $330.00 - 200
Bushels of Cotton seed at $[illegible] $120.00 - 4 Stacks Fodder
at $10.00 - $40.00 - Also - [illegible] total being $1290.00 - And
further that the Cotton now held by military authority
belonging to Col W. Mallory shall be restored to him forthwith,
is not approved - The remainder is approved.

The contract upon which the Plaintiff relies to recover
is virtually two contracts - or a contract in regard to
two distinct and different agreements - The first
simply a promise on the part of Cockrill to pay for
certain things - the second an agreement for labor
and its payment -

The act of Congress of July 16th 1866. known as
"Bureau Bill" Sec 4. gives Military jurisdiction in
all (certain) cases under such regulations as
President through the Secretary of War shall
The orders of the War Dept for such cases
Sept 19th 1866. provides Secs - "Bureau Courts shall
jurisdiction of all cases relating to compensation
for labor of refugees and freedmen and may hear
and determine all others not involving above
the sum of Three Hundred Dollars ($300.)"
thus providing for both portions of this contract -
the sums involved in other items than compen-
sation for labor do not exceed $300. as the account
found by the Court exceeds the amount named I
can but conclude the Court had no jurisdiction of
that portion of the contract -

In regard to that portion of the finding which
releases the cotton held to secure the payment of Smith's
claim, I have to state respectfully that Circular of Jan 6
1867. Office Asst Comr Little Rock reads: "Wages will
be secured by a lien upon the crops raised or by
good securities" this clause is capable of two in-
terpretations - one, that the contracts will be
made containing a stipulation that the laborer
shall have a lien on the crops, and the other, that
all laborers have a lien on the crops raised
by them by virtue of this order, and without
further action - This last interpretation is I
believe the one invariably adopted by all officers of
the Bureau. and [illegible] employers and employees, in
any other interpretation would cause endless delay
and ruin to the interests of the freedmen, as many
of them work without contract - and many could
not contain such a clause - The Assistant
Asst Commissioner himself on this
subject it is forcibly observed by his order that
this Cotton be held to secure the payment
of the award to Smith - The question

the crop any belong is entirely foreign to the con
ract & therefore have no place in it - If Smith is
to have a lien upon the crop he raises he should
have it as much if it belongs to Mallory as if it
belong to Cockrill -

I respectfully request definite instructions
as to any further action in this case -

If the Asst Commissioner confirms the
finding of the Court please instruct me if any
further steps are required on my part to obtain
from Cockrill the sum due - If the Cotton
is sold shall the portion of the proceeds in regard
to the payment for the articles be made from the Cotton?

I respectfully recommend that so much of the
Cotton as may be necessary to pay the sum due
for labor being $800 and cost of suit be sold
and the money be paid to Smith. And that he
be informed that for the remainder of his award
he must look to Cockrill through the Civil Courts
if need be -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servant
Wm Dawes
Bvt Maj Genl Supt

Bureau R F & A L
Office Genl Supt Ark Miss
Pine Bluff Ark Jan 17. 1864

Maj Genl Tyler
Genl Supt
Pine Bluff Ark
Sir

In consequence of the necessary
absence of the Genl Superintendent for a limited
period you will in addition to the duties with
which you are already charged perform the
duties of General Superintendent of Arkansas
Eighth District and of that Local Superintendency
of Jefferson County subject to the approval

of the Assistant Commissioner
Very respectfully
Your obt Servant
Wm Dawes
Bvt Maj Genl Supt

Bureau R F & A L
Office Genl Supt Ark Miss
Pine Bluff Ark Jan

Tyler Maj John Isaac
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to req
that a non Commissioned Officer and five
men (Mounted) be directed to report for duty to
the Superintendent of Arkansas Co - They will be
needed to act as messengers and a general
guard and preventive force - A freedman was
shot about Christmas day by one Burns
the firm of Burns & Hanson on Cherokee Bayou
and after remaining about several days escaped
for want of action by Civil Authorities - I deem
the presence of a few men in each County and
the certainty of their use if need be will prove
the necessity of their use - Please direct that
they be provided with rations and forage
for one month -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servant
Wm Dawes
Bvt Maj Genl Supt

Bureau R F & A L
Office Genl Supt Ark Miss
Pine Bluff Ark Jan

Commanding Officer
Pine Bluff Ark
Sir

I have the honor to

there is evidence to justify the belief that one Jones Webb of Pine Bluff has been guilty of murder of a freedman named Henderson in Dallas Co Ark in May 1865: and that the Civil Authorities fail, neglect and refuse to act in the matter and to prosecute you to arrest the offender and send him to the Assistant Commissioner at Little Rock to be tried before a competent civil Court.

Wm Conner. Esq. Jno A Williams will furnish the necessary proofs & information.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Wm. Davis
Bvt Maj Genl Supt

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abd
Office Asst. Supt. Ark. Riv. Dist.
Pine Bluff Ark Jan 14 1867

Commanding Officer
Pine Bluff Ark.

Sir

I have the honor to state that there is evidence to justify the belief that one Jones Webb of Pine Bluff has been guilty of aggravated Assault upon the person of two freedmen, one of whom he shot through the body, by firing through a window, the freedman being in his own house and that the freedman being shot through the lungs and penetrating through both sides made by the ball is saying at the point of death, as I am informed by the attending physician. I further state that the Civil Authorities fail to administer justice in the case. And respectfully request you to arrest the offender and send him to the Asst Commissioner at Little Rock Ark that he may be tried before a competent Civil Court.

Very respectfully &c
Bvt Maj Genl Supt

Bureau Refugees Freedmen &
Office Asst. Supt. Ark. R
Pine Bluff Ark

Maj. Genl. J. Mower
Asst Com'r B.R.F. & A.L.
Dept Louisiana

General:

On the
1866. Maj. W. J. Davis Asst. Supt. B.R.F. an
Arkansas Riv. Dist. seized Twenty Bales
cotton grown and prepared for market
the Dr. Goree plantation in Arkansas Co
this state by the firm of Goree Billings
and others unknown. to secure the wag
of the Freedmen employed in raising t
same. On the same day he appointed
William Douglas Esq of Arkansas Co. his
agent to dispose of the cotton and to pay
the laborers from the proceeds the several
sums due them. This action and
appointment was on full report of the
case, approved by Maj. Genl. Asst Comdg Dept.

Immediately thereafter these twenty bal
were shipped by Mr Douglas in his own nam
to the Firm of Boyd, Coleman and Graham
New Orleans

It seems necessary to remark that
at the time of seizure, the several parties
of the firm engaged in planting had fallen
into violent disputes and were mutually
serving writs of attachment for possession of
the cotton and also that several parties
Creditors of the Firm were present - each
anxious to secure their claims. All these
contending interests seemed desirous that
the Freedmen be fully paid.

Mr Boyd. of the above named New Orleans
House was one of these — was fully cogni
of all the facts - and expressed cordial a

States for the welfare of the Colored people
It was therefore with entire confidence
in the commercial honor of this House that
Mr Douglass sent this lot of Cotton to them
for sale, with a similar lot turned over
to him by Gorse and Billingsley towards pay
ment of the indebtedness to B.C. and G
above indicated.

Having received this cotton, Mr Boyd,
for his firm returns answer instead of money
to Mr Douglass - that Messrs Gorse & Billingsley
are indebted to them in a sum covering the
entire shipment, - that they need the money
as much as the freedmen for whose rations
the debt was contracted, and having
it - shall keep it.

I have therefore respectfully to request you
to cause Messrs Boyd Coleman and Graham
to pay the proceeds of twenty bales of this Cotton
as per account sales to yourself, to be forwarded
to me for payment to the blacks, or to satisfy
you that they have sent said proceeds to
William Douglass at Auburn Arkansas Co.
for the same purpose.

Since the above transactions Dr. Gorse has
died - Billingsley has left the country,
and no resource seems left the Freedmen
unless this action is taken.

Earnestly asking your early attention
to the matter,

I am, Sir,
Very respectfy. Your obt. servant
William D. Hale
Supt. B.R.F. and A.L.
Ark. River Distd.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen and
Office Genl. Supt. Ark. River D
Pine Bluff, Ark. Jan. 2

Maj. Jno. Tyler
A.A.G. Bureau
Little Rock, Ark.

Major:

I have the
state that I am receiving numerous ap
for transportation for Freedmen from
Sea-board states to this valley under th
provisions of Circular No. 4. Office Chief
Master dated Dec 10. 1866. - by planters w
are fully able to afford them good home
and large wages. These gentlemen com
to me with full and entirely satisfactory
recommendations as to character and fi
nantial ability. I am desirous to assis
them, and can best do so by placing their
requests before the Asst. Comr. at the earliest
practicable moment. I am at loss to know
what special routine is required by you
in these cases, and further what security
will be required by the Asst. Comr. before
approving these applications.

I forward the request of Col. Blackburn by
special messenger with my approval endorsed
respectfully requesting full information on
the above named points.

I take this measure in the interest of the
applicant. Knowing the lateness of the season
the distance to be traveled to procure hands, -
and also from my own desire to be early
informed as to the course to be pursued in
such cases.

I am, Major,
Very respectfully
Your obt. servant
William D.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen and A.L.
Office Genl. Supt. Ark Riv District
Pine Bluff Ark January 21. 1867

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose herewith claims for Bounty as in the cases of

David Calloway.	Private	Co. A.	64. U.S.C. Inf.
Yancey Hellums	"	" B.	do
Washington Morrison	"	" G.	do
Isaac Gray	"	" D.	do
Nathan Hulsey	"	" G.	do
William Darrin	"	" D.	do
William Trotter	"	" H.	2nd U.S. Colty Ar-
Levi Folivor	"	" G.	64. U.S.C Inf.
Gerard Gibson	"	" D.	do
Miles Barnett	"	" A.	do
Paul Jacks	"	" D.	do
Gibem Douglas	"	" H	2d U.S.C cavty St.
John Barnett	"	" B.	64. USC Inf
Henry Henderson	Corpl	" a.	62 do
Cabirn Jasper	Private	" a	64 do
Frank Hellums	Dirpl.	" B	do
Abram Bogy		" a	do
Carney Nevils	widow of		
Benton Nevils		Co I	54 U.S.C Inf

I remain. Major.
Very respectfully.
Your obt. servant.
William D. Hale
Gen. Supt. Bureau
Ark Riv. Dist

Maj. Jno. Tyler
A.A.G. B.R.F.A.S.
Little Rock Ark

The parties in this case came & a satisfactory settlement was effected on the 17th day of April 1867

Bureau Refugees. Freedmen and
Office Gen. Supt. Ark Riv. D
Pine Bluff. January

To whom it may Concern:

You are hereby
duel by authority vested in me as an
of this Bureau - I have this day seized
crop of cotton raised by Washington Ch
a freedman. on Mr Harris' plantation. (
the "Bell place") to secure the wages of
freedmen employed in raising the same
And all persons are hereby forbidden fro
removing or disposing of the same until re
by me or removed by my order.

Upon proof of full payment to the hands
who have this lein for labor being made
this order will be revoked.

William D. Hale
Genl. Supt. Bureau R.F.
Arkansas Riv. Dist.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen and A.L.
Office Genl Supt. Ark. Riv Dist.
Pine Bluff. January 23.

Maj. Jno. Tyler
A. A. G. B. R. F. A. L.
Little Rock Ark.

Major:

In reply to your
endorsement on the communication of Major
Dawes of January 11: stating that he had
employed an attorney to prosecute the case
of Jonas Webb for shooting a negro. I
have to state that John A. Williams Attorney
of this place was so employed for the case
-time not specified - and that his fee was
to be One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)

Very respectfully. Major.
Your obt. servant
William D. Hale
Gen. Supt. Ark Riv Dist.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen and A. L.
Office Gen. Supt. Ark. Riv. District
Pine Bluff. Ark. January 23. 1867

Major Jno. Eyler
A.A.A. B. R. F. and A. L.
Little Rock. Ark.

Major: I have to state that a question has been presented to me for adjudication in two several instances upon which I have much doubt in the apparently conflicting action of Officials of the Bureau and orders bearing on the subject:- and the necessity compelled a decision in these. I hasten to submit the point to you for instructions for guidance in future cases.

A large number of planters in this District during the past fall went to the Sea board and Gulf States for additional force to assist in picking the cotton crop of last year — were at the expense of transportation from those States, and, as an indemnity, contracted with the Freedmen for the ballance of the Year and also for 1867. These contracts were duly approved by the agents of the Bureau for those States, but have not, I believe, been filed in the local Offices here. It is but just to the parties, so Operating, to add that on arrival here they have uniformly raised the wages of the laborers from the low prices of the eastern States to the standard rates in this Valley.

In the instances referred to, the freedmen have either voluntarily left their places of labor at the end of the year, or have been enticed away by designing men. who persuaded these people that their obligations were now at an end, and they have accordingly made contracts with other parties the ensuing year.

Circular No 16. dated Octo. 26. 1866 directs that "Contracts be made for no longer than one year".

Shall this limitation be placed upon these cases or shall they be as valid, upon approval, said agreements for the Year 1867. and enforce them under the orders of the Assistant Commissioner dated March 1. 1866. (Circular No

I remain. Major.
Your obedient servant,
William D. Hale
Gen. Supt. B. R. F. & A. L.
Ark. Riv. Dist.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen and A. L.
Ark. Riv. Dist. Pine Bluff Jan. 23. 1867

James H. Hawley Esq.
Justice of the Peace. Pine Bluff.

Sir: You are hereby requested to cause to appear before you, and to try the issue between Caroline Johnson (Col.) vs John Macon in the matter of labor performed and supplies furnished during the Year 1866 and further requested that you will submit a copy of the finding to this Office.

Any needed assistance will be furnished.

Very respectfully. Sir
Your obt. Servant
William D. Hale
Gen. Supt. B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A.L.
Arkansas River District.
Pine Bluff. January 24/67

To whom it may concern:

You are hereby notified that by authority vested in me as an agent of this Bureau - I have this day seized the crop of cotton raised by Caroline Johnson (Colored) and others laboring with her on the "Ralston Place" near Pine Bluff - to secure the wages of Freedmen employed in raising the same and for the payment of supplies furnished by them.

All persons are hereby forbidden from removing or disposing of the same until released by me or removed by my order

Upon proof of full settlement being made the Freedmen this order will be revoked.

William D. Hale
Gen. Supt. Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Ark. Riv. Dist. & Jefferson Co.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A.L.
Arkansas River Dist.
Pine Bluff. January 24. 1867

Mr. Forbish.
Merchant, Pine Bluff.

Sir: I enclose a copy of my order taking possession of the cotton grown by Caroline Johnson (Col) and others, on the "Ralston Place" last year.

If you have any claims against these parties you will submit the accounts in writing to this office, when if found correct they will be fully allowed.

It is earnestly desired that you settle any matters of this nature without the necessity of further interference on the part of the Bureau.

Very respectfully
Your obt. servant
William D. H
Gen. Supt. C

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen
Office Gen. Supt. Ark Riv.
Pine Bluff. January

Wm D. Johnson Esq.
Atty at Law, Pine Bluff.

Sir:

You are h
directed to cause to be transported to
Bluff. Ark. and stored with R. B. Patte
Com. Merchant, all the cotton grown b
Washington Churchill (Col.) on the "Bell
Place" in this county, seized by my order
of the 23d inst.

You will exhibit this order of removal to the parties now having the cotton in possession, and your receipt will be their indemnity for the delivery of the sam

Very respectfully,
Your obt. servant
William D. Hale
Gen. Supt. B. R. & A.L.
Ark. Riv. Dist.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A.L.
Office Gen. Supt. Ark. Riv. Dist.
Pine Bluff. January 25 1867

Matt Hamilton Esq.

Sir:

I am informed that you have a colored child by the name of Susan Crosby in your possession and that you refuse to let said child leave your premises.

You are hereby directed to send said child to this Office without delay in order that she may be provided for in accordance with the rules and regulations governing this Bureau.

Very respectfully &c &c
William D. Hale
Supt. Bureau R. F. & A.L.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A. L.
Office Gen. Supt. Ark. Riv. Dist.
Pine Bluff. January, 25. 1867

Maj. Jas. Tyler
A. A. G. B. R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock. Ark.

Major: I have to report that in the case of Jonas Webb of this place now awaiting trial for murder before the U. S. courts at Little Rock. further investigation & inquiry constantly develops new instances of violence & crime committed by himself and other members of the gang under his leadership.

It is reported that in the year 1863 - 4 Webb killed one Thomas H. Morris. His father. Seaborn B. Morris is now living on Simpson Creek. Jefferson Co. sixteen miles from Pine Bluff. from whom the facts and names of other witnesses can be obtained. About the same time the killing of W. D. Whitmire is reported of which the wife and two sons. now residing on Simpson near the Little Rock road. 16 miles from Pine Bluff. are witnesses.

I have submitted the foregoing info to Lt. S. Com. Williams, and am informed that the evidence is now sufficiently against Webb.

I herein submit the same to your reference, if advisable, to the U. S. Com at Little Rock. for further investigation.

I beg leave to add that the case is regarded by all loyal citizens here, as of very grave importance, and that they earnestly desire that swift justice may overtake the man whose work is so inimical to their lives and property.

I remain, Majr.
Very respectfully,
Your obt. servant.
William D. Hale
Gen. Supt. B.R.F. & A.L.

Bureau Refugees. Freedmen & A. L.
Office Gen. Supt. Ark. Riv. Dist.
Pine Bluff. January 26. 1867

Capt. Jno. Williams
U. S. Com. Pine Bluff

Sir:

You are hereby directed to cause to be transported to Pine Bluff, and stored, subject to my order, One half of thirteen (13) bales of cotton grown by Caroline Johnson (Colored) and others on the "Greenfield Place" near Pine Bluff. seized by my order of the 23d inst.

You will exhibit this order to any parties claiming control or possession the cotton, which will be their indem

for delivery of the same.

Very respectfully, Captain,
Your obt. servant
William D. Hale
Gen. Supt. B. R. F. A. L.

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen & A. L.
Office Gen. Supt. Ark. Riv. Dist.
Pine Bluff, January 26, 1867

Mr. Alex Pinchback
Bayou Bartholomew, Jefferson Co.

Sir:

You are hereby directed to appear at this office on Saturday the 2nd day of February 1867, at 1 o'clock P.M. in a matter at issue between you and Jim Anderson and other freedmen employed upon your plantation during the year 1866

Please notify all of said freedmen now now on your plantation of this order, as the matter at issue between you and said freedmen will be adjusted by the superintendent of this Bureau in accordance with the rules and regulations governing the same.

Very respectfully &c
William D. Hale
Supt. Bureau R. F. & A. L.

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen &
Office Gen. Supt. Ark. Riv.
Pine Bluff, January

To whom it may concern:

You are hereby not
that by authority vested in me as an
of this Bureau -- I have this day
two bales of cotton raised by Tom Ed
Gab. Potts, Sam Douglas (freedman) and
families, on the Cobb farm, under an
with Owen & Tucker, to secure the wag
remaining due to the said Freedmen.

I have caused the same to be store
with R. B. Patterson, Com Merchant, Pine Bluff
and all persons are hereby forbidden
from removing or disposing of the cotton
until released by my order.

Upon proof of full settlement with the
Freedmen, this order will be revoked.

William D. Hale
Supt. Bureau R. F. A. L.

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen & A. L.
Ark. Riv. Dist. Pine Bluff, Jan 28, 6

To whom it may concern:

Proof having been submitted
to this Office of full & satisfactory settlement
being made with Caroline Johnson (Col.) and
others interested in cotton grown on the "Green
field Place" by them during the year 1866. —
the said cotton seized by my order of Jan.
28th is hereby released, and the order revoked

William D. Hale
Supt. Bureau R. F. A. L.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A.L.
Office Gen. Supt. Ark. Riv. Dist
Pine Bluff. June 25. 1867

Messrs Tucker & Owen
Pine Bluff. Ark.

Gentlemen:

You are hereby notified that I have this day seized two (2) bales of cotton grown by Freedmen in your employ last year, to secure their wages remaining due.

You are directed to submit without delay to this Office your full accounts with each of these laborers showing the wages earned — the sums already paid and the amounts due each.

Having made satisfactory settlement your cotton will be released.

Very respectfully &c
William D. Hale
Supt. Bureau R. F. & L.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A.L.
Office Gen Supt. Ark. Riv. Dist
Pine Bluff June 26. 1867

Major Jno. Tyler
A. A. G. U. S. A.
Little Rock. Ark.

Major: I beg leave to submit for the consideration of the Assistant-Commissioner the enclosed copy of a letter addressed me yesterday by one of the most substantial and truly loyal citizens of this place bearing on the case of the murderer Webb. and to add to the suggestions of my communication of the 25th inst that the effort to procure testimony in this case seems to assure the belief that the g[ang] which worked under his orders during later months of the war. - still exists organization intact, and now under leadership of one Carr said to be [a] "Lieutenant" are as ready to act as a time of their open career. It is an[ti]cipated will be brought out by a care[ful] examination of the witnesses at the [trial]

I have heard that at the time of [the] arrest this man Carr was heard to [say] that any escort sent onboard to Little [Rock] with the fellow, would be killed & Webb [res]cued.

I have made diligent inquiry for evidence of this. - but am compelled to state that the intimidation and terrorism inspired by these men is such that witnesses will not voluntarily let it be known that they are cognizant of the facts. Yet when the sheet known as the "Vindicator" published in this place, may in its general issue recommend assassination, not only for officers & agents of the Government; but for those who assist them it is scarcely to be wondered that men hesitate or decline to place themselves in any position that will certainly call upon them the vengence of these lurking scoundrels.

In my opinion the presence of the Military force, has alone encouraged such action on the part of citizens as has led to these developments. and I respectfully request your permission, — earnestly recommending the increase rather than the withdrawal of a man of Lieut. Bonting Command. — to assure these gentlemen that the Military Arm of the Government will remain permanently their protection, and will not at any uncertain moment be withdrawn.

I am satisfied that with this

[illegible] assistance will be rendered to
[illegible] Office of the Bureau and to the U. S.
Commissioner by men who now fear to report
the outrages [illegible] upon their own persons or
property.

I remain Major.
Very respectfully
Your obt. servant
William D. Hale
Gen. Supt. B. R. & A. L.

Bureau Refugees. Freedmen & A. L.
Office Gen. Supt., Ark. Riv. Dist
Pine Bluff. Jan 29. 1867

Major Jno. Tyler
A. A. G. U. S. A.
Little Rock. Ark.

Major: I have to state that there is great need of Government transportation for use at this point. The expense of fuel for the many fires for the troops, for the Hospital and for this office is mainly in the drawing from the woods - The fequent transportation of supplies as of rations, clothing, forage &c from the landing elsewhere to various points, becomes no inconsiderable item of cost to the Govt. The burial of the dead from the Hospital & the conveying of sick to Hospital frequently landed from boats - all these form in the aggregate an expense that may be avoided if we can be furnished with a four or six mule team

In accordance with my reqiest of yesterday for the permanent establishment of this Post. I respectfully recommend that the Q. M. Dept be ordered to transfer a team to the Comdg Officer here, with instructions to afford on the requisition of the Supt. of the Bureau such assistance as may be in his power.

Very respectfully
Your obt. servant
William D. Hale
Supt. Bureau R. F. & A. L.

Bureau Refugees. F[illegible]
Office Gen. Supt. Ark. R[illegible]
Pine Bluff. January [illegible]

Lieut. Jno Barton
28th U. S. Infty
Commanding Post.

Sir: I have h[illegible]
to request you to order to report to me for
duty tomorrow, 30th inst. two men, mounted.
The service will require their absence from
your camp but for the day.

I am, Lieutenant
Very respectfully
Your obt. servant
William D. Hale
Supt. Bureau R. F. &

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A
Office Gen. Supt. Ark. Riv. Dis
Pine Bluff January 30. 186

Sergeant Best
A. D. 28th U. S. Inf.

Sir: You will proceed to the plantation of Mr. Mysell, nine miles from this town on the lower river road. and there arrest a colored man named Tom and his son - reporting them on your arrival at this Office.

Very respectfully &c
William D. Hale
Supt Bureau R. F. & A.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A.L.
Office Gen. Supt. Ark. Riv. Dist.
Pine Bluff January 31. 1867

Major Jno. Tyler
A.A.G. Bureau
Little Rock. Ark.

Major: I beg leave to report that under orders of the Assistant Commissioner of date Dec. 29. in the case of Anderson (Col.) vs. Cockrill. - I am holding with a guard of two men of Lieut. Bartons command some fifteen bales of cotton. on the "Byrd Place" fifteen miles above on the river.

The enlisted men are unprovided with Camp and garrison equipage and are therefore dependent on the Charity of the Lessee: who is indisposed to extend them the needed shelter. and much annoyance results to Lieut. Barton and myself from the frequent complaints of both the men and the Lessee.

To enable me to relein the men. I respectfully suggest that orders be issued to remove from the place and store in Pine Bluff - subject to final action on the finding of the Court of Reference in the case. - enough cotton, say Eight Bales: as will cover the award to Anderson for labor, or such other number as may be deemed sufficient.

I remain. Major
Your obedient servant
William D. Hale
Gen. Supt. Bureau R.F.A.L.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A.L.
Office Gen. Supt. Ark. Riv. Dist.
Pine Bluff January

To whom it may concern:

Proof having been at this Office of full and just settlement being made by Messrs Owen and Tucker with Freedmen employed by them during the 1866. - the cotton seized by my order of 38 bls is hereby released.

William D. Hale
Supt. Bureau

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A.L.
Office Gen. Supt. Ark. Riv. Dist.
Pine Bluff. Jan 31. 1867

Bvt. Col. Henry Page
A.D.C. and A.A.A.G.
Little Rock. Ark.

Colonel: In obedience to the requirements of Circular No 3. Maj. Gen J.W. Sprague June 24. 1866. I have the honor to submit my reports of labors for the month of January

I was appointed by Major W.J. Dawes, Gen. Sup. Arkansas River District. Superintendent for the County of Arkansas January 10th and immediately entered upon my duties by accompanying Maj. Dawes to that County. I secured the few records and papers of the Office. discontinued about the 1st. Sept. last rented an office of Maj. Hunt on the "Jordan Plantation" near Auburn P.O. and notified the people by word and the distribution of Circulars that the Bureau was reestablished in the county. On the 7th inst. I was ordered to assume the duties of Generel Superintendent of the District (save Desha County) during the temporary absence of Major Dawes - including those of Local Agent for Jefferson Co.

Placing my Clerk. Lieut. Douglas

far as practicable to continue the routine of office work. I reported at Pine Bluff and assumed charge of this office.

The labors devolving upon me since that time have been mainly in the local office of Jefferson Co. in revising and approving contracts between Freedmen and planters for the present year, and in the adjustment of differences between employers and employees in the settlement of accounts for the last year.

This latter has formed no inconsiderable portion of the work, and in many instances proved of a most difficult and perplexing character. Patient attention and the exhibition of both power and determination to secure for the Freedmen their just rights, has in most instances secured a prompt and equitable settlement. A few cases still await final action. In several instances I have been compelled to seize cotton and corn to secure wages due the laborers. In my order of seizure I have stated that on proof of full payment the crops would be released, and this indication as quickly attained the desired result.

The Freedmen throughout the District have almost universally entered into contract for this year. At this point there are none to my knowledge, save the few sick and disabled who are cared for in Hospital, but are provided with places of labor and have visible means of support. Comparatively few contracts have been submitted for approval up to this date, owing mainly to the late and insufficient notice of the reestablishment of the Bureau for the County.

The rates of compensation, very generally for a share of the crop - are of the most liberal character, and agreements seem to be entered into with most honorable intentions on the part of employers - I may add that there is still great demand for laborers throughout the valley.

In this respect the opportunity for the people is of the most encouraging character.

A few instances have been reported where laborers have left plantations where they contracted. No effort has been spared to correct this, and to impress upon the Freedmen the sacred and inviolable character of obligations once intelligently entered into.

The announcement of the reestablishment of the Local Offices of the Bureau in the Counties of Jefferson and Arkansas has been received by those engaged in planting as a measure calculated to advance their own interests, as well as of the blacks, and recent requirements in regard to contracts are complied with with cheerful alacrity.

The Hospital at this point under charge of A. A. Surg. Quinn is in excellent condition. Capable of accomodating thirty patients, there are now cared for only seven sick and nine aged or infirm colored persons - thus comprising all the cases of needed assistance brought to the attention of the Superintendent.

The two schools here continue in successful operation. One plantation school has during the month been established, and the teacher for another is awaiting the preparation of a suitable school room. Numerous applications have been received for teachers and they have been forwarded to the Genl Supt. of schools for the state.

The presence of Mr. Miller, Assistant of Mr Colby to thoroughly canvass the lower valley for the introduction of schools under the auspices of the American Missionary Association will supply a want that the confining duties of the Supt has in great measure prevented attention to.

No indentures of apprenticeship have been supervised during the month.

A number of instances of outrage and violence by white persons against freedmen have been perpetrated in various parts of the District. These have been specially reported to the Asst. Comr. and need not here be referred to.

In none of these have the civil authorities taken any action, except when occurring under the eye of the Agent of this Bureau or in the vicinity of a military force - and in these, with such contempt for the rights of the black man as to make the execution of the law but a miserable farce. To avoid further prosecution certain of these parties have reported the assault to a "Justice" for nominal fine and dismissal!

On the other hand, the majesty of offended law is swiftly vindicated when the aggressing party is of the darker hue.

The presence of the military force at this point is having a most salutary effect upon all classes. The embearing manner - the insolent sneer & half concealed threat of all who hate us but the most desperate villains, has been silenced or concealed. The truly loyal are encouraged and grateful for the protection of the strong arm of military power. The colored people are reassured that they will be protected in their rights, and at the same time yield a more ready obedience to the orders and regulations of the Bureau.

Permit me again to repeat my earnest desire that the Post of Pine Bluff be permanently reestablished and that the fact be fully understood

I remain, Colonel
Very respectfully,
Your obt. servant
William D. Hale
Supt. Bureau R.F.&L.

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen &
Office Supt. Asst. Comr. Dis.
Pine Bluff, February 1.

Bt. Col. Henry Page
A.A.G. and A.A.A.G.
Little Rock, Ark.

Colonel: Early last [illegible] colored man named Washington Churchill a small tract of land of Mr Harris on Bayou Cholonieu Jefferson Co. - contracted with other Freedmen for the year, and after very indifferent effort thro. the season almost entirely failed raising but three bales of cotton. About the commencement of the picking season, some of the laborers were settled with in some manner and they sought more profitable labor on other plantations. Two men Dick. Potter and Elic Jones however continued work till the crop was gathered - Washington had during the season mortgaged the crop for supplies for his force and being hopelessly in debt also left about Christmas abandoning all attempts to settle the seasons enterprise. Early in January the mortgagee, to secure something of the debt made by Washington, levied on two bales of the cotton - the third going for rent and at this juncture the case was reported to me. I immediately seized these two bales to secure the wages of the two men above named and have the same in store at this place.

After careful inquiry I am satisfied that there are no other laborers having demands against this cotton save Dick. and Elic., and that the proceeds of these will only partially satisfy their claims.

I have therefore respectfully to request that the [illegible] of the Asst. Comr to sell the said cotton & to pay the proceeds to the named Freedmen.

Very respectfully, Your obt. [illegible]
William D. Hale

Bureau Refugees Freedmen and A.L.
Office Gen. Supt. Ark. Riv. District
Pine Bluff. Feb. 4 1867

Eugene Hardeman
Justice of the Peace
Pine Bluff. Ark.

Sir: You will please report to this Office. whether a suit has been entered by Major Lee et al. of this place against a Colored man named Sandy Christmas, for trial before you as a Justice of the Peace. — the issue taken and the date of hearing.

Very respectfully &c &c
William D. Hale
Supt. Bureau R. F. A.L.

Bureau Refugees. Freedmen and A.L.
Office Gen. Supt. Ark Riv. District.
Pine Bluff. Feb. 1. 1867

Bt. Col. Henry Page
A.A.G. & A.A.A.G.
Little Rock. Ark.

Sir: I have the honor herewith to transmit my monthly report of "Refugees and Freedmen", in obedience to Circular No 10. of the Commissioner. Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard. July 11 1865.

I remain. Colonel
Very respectfully
Your obt. servant
William D. Hale
Supt. Bureau R. F. A.L.

Bureau Refugees. Freedmen a
Office Gen Supt. Ark. Ri
Pine Bluff. Feb. 1. 18

To whom it may Concern:

You are hereby notif
that by authority vested in me as an agent
Bureau - I have this day seized two bales
raised by Riley Morgan. James Stanton and
Granville (Freedmen) on the McGhee plan
under contract with Alexander and McGhee
now in possession of Mr Rosenberg. Merc
of Pine Bluff. to secure the wages remai
due to the said Freedmen.

All persons are hereby forbidden from remo
or disposing of the same until released by
order.

Upon proof of full payment to the fre
this order will be revoked.

William D. Hale
Supt. Bureau R. F. & A.L.

Bureau Refugees. Freedmen & A.L.
Office Gen. Supt. Ark. Riv. Dist.
Pine Bluff Feb 2. 1867

Capt. Jno. A. Williams
U. S. Commissioner
Pine Bluff. Ark.

Sir:

I have to request that you cause to appear before you for the purpose of taking their affidavits in the case of murders of W. D. Whitmire and Thomas H. Morris. — Mrs Whitmire and her two daughters and Seaborn B. Morris, all living on Simpsons Creek Jefferson Co. Ark. to the left of the Little Rock road. some 16 miles from Pine Bluff.

If practicable. I leave it discretionary with your marshal to summons and cut parties whom he may learn from

as having knowledge of the facts and circumstances.

Very respectfully.
Your obt. servant
William D. Hale
Supt. Bureau R.F.A.L.

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and A.L.
Office Gen. Supt. Ark. Riv. Dist.
Pine Bluff. Feb. 3. 1867

Wm M. Colby
Supt. Schools Ark. Ind Ter.
Little Rock. Ark.

Sir: I have the honor herewith to transmit the "Report of schools" for this District for January.

The confining duties of the superintendent at this season of the year have prevented a careful inspection of these schools and to his regret has as will permitted little effort to introduce schools upon plantations. The presence of Mr. Miller, your assistant, to look after this matter thoroughly will supply the greatly needed aid and much good will speedily be accomplished - A large number of our ablest planters are desiring of having these schools, and need an urging when the opportunity is offered to secure teachers. Among other classes much earnest effort will be necessary to break the deep-seated prejudice existing against "Yankee schools" -

I respectfully add my endorsement to the suggestion of Mr. Miller for the establishment of a teachers Home at this point. This seems necessary to place teachers in that position of dignity and respect to which their noble and self-sacrificing work entitles them, and actually to for their personal comfort.

It will prove a resting point for teachers arriving from a distance, - a place of as often as convenient for mutual and encouragement. - a home and of kind friends in case of illness, and in event of difficulty and persecution.

The expense will be light compared with good resulting.

I am. Sir.
Very respectfully
William D. Hale
Supt. Bureau

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A. L.
Office Gen. Supt. Ark. Riv. Dist.
Pine Bluff. Feb. 4. 1867

To whom it may concern:

This will certify that Miss Vaughn and Coldiasure having entered into contract for the year 1867, with Chesley Johnson, Henry Jackson, Fletcher Snipes, Taylor Hadley, Ida Hadley and Ann Hadley, (Freedmen) which contract has been approved at this office - the said Freedmen having left the place of labor, - are entitled to receive all the wages earned by said Freedmen while so absent. and all parties employing them will be held responsible by this Bureau, to Miss Vaughn and Coldiasure for the full payment of said wages to them.

William D. Hale
Supt. Bureau R. F. A. L.

Bureau. Refugees. Freedmen & A.L.
Office Gen Supt. Ark Riv Dist
Pine Bluff. Feb. 4. 1867

Messrs Scull and Stoddard
Scull & Butlers Plantation
Jefferson Co. Ark.

Gentlemen: Proof having been made at this office that the following named Freedmen — Charley Johnson. Henry Jackson Fletcher Snipes, Taylor Hadley, Ida Hadley and Ann Hadley — under Approved Contract for the year 1867. with Messrs Vaughn and Colclasure on Plum Bayou. Jefferson Co., have left their place of labor and are now at work for you. —

You are hereby notified that under orders of this Bureau Messrs Vaughn and Colclasure are entitled to collect all the wages the said Freedmen may earn while in your employ and that you are held responsible for the full payment of the same to Vaughn and Colclasure.

Very respectfully. Yr. Ob.
William D. Hale
Supt. Bureau R. F. & A. L.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A. L.
Office Gen. Supt. Ark. Riv. Dist.
Pine Bluff. Feb. 2. 1867

Lieut. Dr. Barton 28th U.S. Inf.
Cindy Post of Pine Bluff.

Lieut: I have the honor to request you to order to report to me for instructions, a non. com. Officer and two men mounted and supplied with two days rations.

They are needed for a scout to the Saline River in search of Witnesses against the murderer Watt.

I remain. Sir.
Very truly Yours —
William D. Hale
Supt Bureau —

Bureau Refugees Freedmen &
Office Gen. Supt. Ark R.
Pine Bluff. Feb. 5.

Bt. Col. Henry Page
A.A.G., A.A.A.G.
Little Rock. Ark.

Colonel: I enclose
of a contract filed in this Office Janua
entered into between H. H Pointer and
freedmen in October 1866 for the remaina
the year, and also for 1867.

Complaints has been made to me by
J. D. Blackburn that a part of these ha
have left the place and are at work on oth
plantations, and asks assistance of the
Bureau to secure their return.

Refering to the contract it is seen that
there is no mention of a firm as party of
first part, or any indication that Mr Blackbu
has an interest in the labor of these people.

It appears however by statement of Mr Pointer
in person, that Mr Blackburn was a partner
with himself and others in the season enterprise
and had entire control of the place. That he. (Mr
P.) resided in Nashville Tenn., and on represen
tation of Mr. Blackburn in October, that additional
force was needed. — went from Nashville to Georgia
Contracted with and brought the Freedmen to
the Plantation. — That he contracted with
them for the firm. — that they were informed
that he was acting for himself and others, and
that in the thoughtless omission of the name
of the Firm. there was no intention to prejudice
the interest of Mr. Blackburn or other partners
and that on arrival they were under the sole
orders and direction of Mr. B. to their entire
satisfaction. Mr. Pointer, in the first of the
year withdrew from the Partnership, leaving Mr
Blackburn all interests of this character —

I am not aware that the Freedmen have in any way objected to Mr B. but they set up the claim that their obligations ended with the year and assert their consequent right to contract where they please.

The parties who have employed these people are aware of the terms upon which B. seeks to hold their service, and have agreed to give them up.

With reference to the claim binding the employee for the year 1867. at the end of the contract, I have to add that on the original contract submitted to me by Mr Pinter, it is apparently written in the hand of Majr. Eunard, agent of the Bureau Approving it. And further that all the hands remaining on the place, about one third of the number, - state positively that this was understood and agreed to by all.

Upon these facts the question arises, Can Mr. Blackburn sustain his claim upon the labor of the Freedmen, parties to the contract.?

Upon his earnest request I submit the case for the decision of the Assistant Commissioner.

I remain, Colonel,
Very respectfully, &c.
William D. Hale
Supt. Bureau R.F.A.L.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen &c
Office Gen. Supt. Ark &
Pine Bluff, Feb. 5

Mr. William Tucker
Merchant. Pine Bluff.

Sir:

You are requested
call at this office at 10 oc tomorrow morn
to submit your statement in the matter
complaint of Lucy Ann, colored girl.
non payment of wages as house servant

Very respectfully &c
William D. Hale
Supt. Bureau R. F. & A.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & C
Office Gen. Supt. Ark Pine D
Pine Bluff, Feb. 6. 1867

Bt. Col. Henry Page
A. D. C. and A. A. A. G.
Little Rock. Ark

Colonel: I have the hon
to acknowledge receipt through the mail of
three "Bureau Officers Manuals.
They will be handed to Major Dawes on his
return.

Very respectfully.
Your obt. servant
William D. Hale
Gen. Supt. Bureau R. F. C.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A.L.
Office Gen. Supt. Ark. Ris. Dist.
Pine Bluff Feb. 7. 1867

To whom it may concern:

This will certify. that whereas Capt. E. C. Morton of Arkansas Co. Ark. has entered into Contract for the Year 1867 with certain Freedmen. namely. Jerry Ward. Mary Ward. Lewis Couch. Lucy David Flenoy Hart. Dennis Nolan David Walker. Mack Washington. Wiley Reams Harriet Rockett. Maria Deane. Demos Deane Hannah Dorrity. David Washington and Neil Wiley which contract has been duly approved by me. — and whereas the said Freedmen have without just cause left their place of labor — that the said Capt. E. C. Morton is by the orders and regulations of this Bureau entitled to receive all wages of the said Freedmen while so absent.

All persons employing these Freedmen therefore. are hereby notified. that they are held by this Bureau - responsible for the full payment of said wages — the same being the highest ruling rates in Arkansas Ris Valley. — to Capt E. C. Morton.

William D. Hale
Gen. Supt. Bureau R. & A. L.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A. L.
Office Gen. Supt. Ark. Ris. District
Pine Bluff. Feb. 7. 1867

Dr. Bowen
Jefferson Co. Ark.

Sir: Enclosed you will find a certificate granted to Capt. E. C. Morton for the recovery of wages of certain Freedmen part of whom are now in your plantation.

You are requested to inform the Freedmen Jerry. Mary Lucy and Neil of the full ability under which they labor while so grantly breaking their obligations. the Bureau is not permitted to use force save the return of these parties - its instructions are very positive for the full collection for the time absent.

I have carefully considered the case of Jerry Ward. - under age. - and find that contracted with the consent of his Father to whom he is therefore held to Capt. Morton.

Your attention is further called to the order in force with reference to the employment of hands. known to be under contract to other parties. The interests of the Freedmen not less than the planters. are bound up in the sacred and inviolable fulfillment of their obligations once intelligently entered into. and to secure these will be the warm and earnest wish of this Office.

Very respectfully. &c
William D. Hale
Gen. Supt. Bureau R. & A. L.

Bureau Refugees. Freedmen & A.
Office Gen. Supt. Ark. District
Pine Bluff Feb. 14. /

Corporal:

I enclose a request from Capt Mallory to Mr. Carrol for the removal of certain bales of cotton now under Your supervision to the bank of the river for shipment to this place. Please hand to Mr. C. and with his assistance place twelve (12) bales of the cotton at the Landing by tomorrow (Friday) Evening. ready for the "Alerte", which boat I have made arrangements

take it on. You will accompany the cotton and report at this Office immediately on arrival.

Any claims to the cotton by other parties than Mr. Mallory or his agent will be disregarded by you.

If any difficulty is anticipated by you in the removal of this number of bales send me word tonight by the orderly.

Very respectfully &c.
William D. Hale
Supt. Bureau &c

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A.L.
Office Gen. Supt. Ark. Riv. Dist.
Pine Bluff. Ark. Feb. 14. 1867

Bt. Col. Henry Page
A. D. M. and A. A. A. G.
Little Rock. Ark

Colonel: I have the honor to acknowledge return of certain applications for bounty and back pay of Colored Soldiers for correction

I have endeavored to find in this office the printed directions dated Sept. 27. 1866 referred to in your endorsement without success, and respectfully request that a copy be furnished me.

The matter of making up these papers is in the hands of an experienced clerk employed by Major Davies, upon whose knowledge of details I am compelled to depend.

I have further to request a full file of printed orders, instructions and regulations in the matter of making these applications for the use of the reestablished Office of Arkansas County.

Very respectfully.
Your obt. servant
William D. Hale
Supt. Bureau &c

Bureau Refugees Freedmen &
Office Gen. Supt. Ark. Riv.
Pine Bluff. Feb. 15. 1867

To whom it may concern:

You are hereby that by authority vested in me as of this Bureau, I have this day seized of all the cotton grown by Richard Abraham Densley and other Freedmen Plantation on Choctaw Bayou Arkansas Co. contract with William Kitby, which is now possession of the Sheriff of Arkansas Co. to the wages or share of the crop due and belong to said Freedmen.

All persons are hereby forbidden from removing, disposing or in any manner exercising any control over said one-third said cotton unless authorized to do by my order.

William D. Hale
Supt. Bureau R.F.A.L.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A.L.
Office Gen. Supt. Ark. Riv. Dist.
Pine Bluff. Feb. 15. 1867.

Mr. John Lambert
Choctaw Bayou. Arkansas Co.

Sir: I have this day by authority of the United States seized an undivided One Third of the seed cotton grown on the "Idaho Plantation" on Choctaw Bayou in the interest of the laborers (Freedmen) to whom it of right belongs - by name Richard Jones. Abraham Densley and others.

You are hereby appointed my agent to the said cotton by weight, and to gin, bale sell the said one third belonging to Freedmen, and after deducting from

the necessary expense of bagging rope and transportation. You will pay the same to the said Freedmen in proportion to the labor actually performed by each in raising the crop.

You will make full report to me in writing of your action - the amount of the proceeds and the manner and fact of distribution to the Freedmen.

Should any question your right or authority to perform these acts, answer that you are the appointed agent of myself and acting under the orders of the Freedmens Bureau. Should any parties attempt to interfere or resist you, report the fact to this office.

Very respectfully &c
William D. Hale
Supt. Bureau R.F.A.L.

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark
July 17. 1867

Tyler Maj John A.A.G.
Little Rock
Ark
Sir

In reply to your letter of January 31st this day received I have the honor respectfully to state that no room rented at this Station by this Bureau is occupied by myself as a sleeping room apartments

Very respectfully
Your Ob Servt
M J Dawes
Bvt Maj Genl Supt

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark
February 17th 1867

Tyler Maj John A.A.G.
Little Rock Ark
Sir

I have the honor to request an order to make a trip from this place Red Fork Desha Co & return - three to Little Rock & return to cover a journey made before departure to this Post. The journey was made to transact business of importance connected with the Bureau.

Very respectfully
Your Ob Servant
M J Dawes. Capt & A.A.G.
Bvt Maj Genl Supt

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Feb 17. 1867

Hale Wm D. Supt
Bureau R.F. & A.L. Pine Bluff
Sir

In compliance with orders from the War Department I have resumed my duties in this Office thereby relieving you from further service here - You will proceed without delay to your station in Arkansas & report to the Asst Comr at Little Rock for an order to cover the cost of transportation -

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
M J Dawes
Bvt Maj Genl Supt

Bureau of Refugees Freedmen & Abandoned Lands
Office Genl Supt Ark River District
Pine Bluff Ark Feb 21st 1867

Lt
Supt Bureau R F & L
Napoleon Ark

Sir

I have this day received and forwarded your communication in regard to the hands contracted with Wm Branch at Red Fork, and now on Wm Meads Place - Your reported action is approved - If Wm Mead has enticed or caused or connived at the enticing away of these hands knowing they were under contract, he can and should be fined according to the provisions of Genl Circular No 19 of March 1st 1866, which has not been revoked but reaffirmed in Circular No 24, of Oct 26 1866.

The wages of these freedmen will be collected by the sale of Cotton or other crops raised by them, and upon which they have a lien, and paid to Wm Branch instead of the hands.

In the absence of instructions from the Supt Commissioner you will be guided by these orders -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servant
M P Bowles
Bvt Maj, Genl Supt

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A L
Office Genl Supt Ark Division
Pine Bluff Ark Feb 24, 1867

Gen'l Major Gen'l Fisk

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of endorsement of 18th inst instructing me to report the amount of fee to be paid Wm Williams in the case of Capt Webb - In reply I beg leave to offer the following statement -

Numerous reports had been made from time to time to this office, charging upon Capt Webb the commission of innumerable murders of the most shocking barbarity, both on Negroes and Union men - The terrorism inspired by the name of Capt Webb and a portion of his gang in this place, I do believe that the organization as a secret society still

exists, rendered it extremely difficult to procure necessary testimony from those whose lives would be endangered by divulging the truth and the military position formerly held by Capt Webb and powerful legal talent he was able to bring to his aid, bring many legal and technical questions into the speedy adjudication of the case, seemed to require a greater amount of labor and legal knowledge than I could give to the case without seriously neglecting the other business of this office - I held a conversation with Wm Williams and laid these matters before him, and showed him the great necessity of using every means in order that Capt Webb might be brought to justice -

I was assured by Wm Williams that if he took hold of the case he would give it the necessary time and labor - that he considered its importance and nothing should prevent his succeeding - that he knew all about Webb and his past life - that he could, to use his expression, "would hang Jonas Webb." That he must be paid for it and he would then let nothing interfere - I spread before him the ~~representation~~ reputation that we would both make if we brought such a notorious murderer to justice, and the great good we would do the world and that we should be thanked by all good men for it - I assured him he should have full credit for all he accomplished, and that success in the matter would do more for him in aiding him in the political schemes he had in his mind than anything else he could do - In any and all events success must be accomplished - Upon the condition that he should do all this, - that he should neglect nothing necessary to accomplish it, with the approval of Genl Asst, and his agreeing to go personally to Little Rock to attend the trial I employed him, agreeing to secure for him a reasonable compensation - At this juncture I left for New York - on my return nearly

I regret even James Welby - I learn on enquiry that he is released. That Am Williams positively refused to listen to, or take evidence against him saying." I have got enough to hang him and he cant be hung but once" - that he did not go near the trial. Nor prepare any evidence against him except in one case, and that he has been constantly in a state of semi-intoxication during my absence;

I regret exceedingly to admit that I have lost confidence in the integrity of Am Williams - I know this is a serious thing to say in an official communication, of and officer of the Government of the high position of Commissioner Williams - I am informed by reliable union men that the matter is so apparent that it will be brought to the attention of the Grand Jury at its next meeting -

I dislike to contemplate an open rupture with Am Williams. He is from my state and I am indebted to him for many courtesies. and traitors to the Govt would rejoice to see divisions among the friends of the Government - but I cannot forbear to say that I believe Am Williams is playing into the hands of vicious men and for money -

In view of all their statement I respectfully ask leave to place the whole matter of compensation to Am Williams in the hands of this Assistant Commissioner -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servant
M J Dawes.
Bvt Maj - Genl Supt

Bureau R. F. & A. L. Office Asst Comr
Little Rock Dist Pine Bluff Sub Dist

Sylen — Maj Genl John
Adjt Genl Ark
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to sub
herewith my monthly narrative report of labors
the condition of affairs generally in my district

In compliance with orders from the War
I was absent from the district during the early
part of the month, my place being supplied by Majr
Supt of Arkansas County;

Maj Hale — On my return on the 16th I resumed the duties
of my office relieving Maj Hale who left for his station
in his own county, where he is now on duty -
take this opportunity to acknowledge the ability and
fidelity with which the business of my office was
conducted during my absence and the obligations I
am under to Maj Hale for the concise and business
like manner I found all the records of the office to
have been kept -

But little can be added to the reports heretofore
made that will be new or interesting - The daily routine
of office duty consists in settling old contracts and
claims for labor - Approving new contracts and giving
advice on various subjects -

Contracts — But a small number of contracts have thus far
been approved, although large numbers have been
presented at the office and examined - The difficulty
of producing the freedmen in person to assent to their
contract and the encouragements that have been held
out that I would visit their plantations and appear
them there, have induced postponement, I have made
a rule to require at least 1/3 of the freedmen signing a
contract to work for wages, or the head of each family
where they work for a share of the crop to be present
hear the contracts read and explained and to
that the rest of the freedmen understand the

and assigned willingly before I would approve them.

There are but few dependent freedmen in my district. since they are in the hospitals in this city.

My issues of Clothing have been very light. I have made no issues to Refugees - to freedmen I have issued 5 Coats, 10 Jackets. 10 pr Trousers. 23 pr Drawers 19 pr Shoes, 37 pr Stockings, 12 Ponchos, 54 Blankets. during the winter,

No orphan children have been indentured during the month -

The Schools in this city are in successful operation. I have visited them during the month. and can report favorable of their conduct - The Asst Supt of schools is in this district. and as he will report fully. I will defer the subject to him - I have suggested an equalization of the schools - Mr Byers has more pupils than he can do justice to. while Mr Lyman could attend to more -

Claims & Bounty

The preparing claims for soldiers for pay and Bounty is tedious. from the fact that no money has yet been received in this city for any claims forwarded from any source - As soon as any returns from any are received. I look for active duty in that department,

Secret Organizations

I am satisfied from what information I can obtain that there exists in this district a secret society composed of persons of the worst class. and who were engaged during the war in plundering and marauding, whose object is to defend and protect each other and their sympathizers from punishment for crimes committed - to retaliate upon Union men and freedmen for reverses during the war, and to see that law and order does not prevail - This class of persons are open in their threats to destroy life and property, and the Bureau and its officers are peculiarly obnoxious to them -

Troops

I am of the opinion there would be no necessity to persons of either of these classes if the troops were removed from this district. and I believe it is only their presence which prevents the necessity of their use

Very respectfully, Your Ob't Servt

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark. Feb. 18th /

Tyler Maj' John A.A.G.
Bureau R.F.&A.L.

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th inst respecting the two children on the Fris place. and to state if it is the desire of the Asst Comr that I provide transportation for the children. if I find the reports correct - I make this enquiry in advance of order that no time may be lost when the facts are ascertained. I shall be obliged to pass the Fris place in a few days on other business. and will at that time make the investigation -

Very respectfully
Your ob't Servant
W. G. Brown
Capt & Maj', Asst Supt

Bureau R.F.&A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark. Feb 25, 1867

Tyler Maj Jno A.A.G.
Bureau R.F.&A.L.

Sir

I have the honor to report that a freedman was shot by a policeman in this city a few nights since. The negro was drunk and under arrest. and, while being taken to prison attempted to escape. and was fired upon and killed.

The case was examined by the civil authorities. Colored testimony received. and the policeman acquitted - It is represented to me that the same course was pursued in all respects. as though all the parties were white - Good men come to me that a wilful murder of a freedman because he was a freedman. has been committed,

Instructions respectfully requested,

Very respectfully, Your Ob't Servt

This case was
Cause of action for
cotton released - Mj Dawes

Bureau R F & A L
Offie Ch Supt Ark Ass't
Pine Bluff Ark Feb 27. 1867

To whom it may concern,

You are hereby notified that by authority vested in me as an Agent of this Bureau, I have seized all the cotton raised and remaining at this date on the Reserve plantation near this place, and worked during the past season by Messrs Fish, Greenfield and Pyles, in order to secure the payment of the Freedmen for labor in its cultivation,

And whereas I have submitted the matters involved in the case to the decision of the Assistant Commissioner: all persons are forbidden to remove or dispose of said cotton, or in any manner to interfere with it till the decision of the Asst Comr, is made known, or the bonds fully paid and satisfied, and the cotton released by orders from this Office.

Wm J Dawes
Bvt Maj. Genl Supt

Bureau R F & A L
Pine Bluff Ark March 6th 1867

Pyles Major John Cross
Bureau R & A L
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to report in the case of Anderson Smith Pl. vs O R Cockrill, that I have sold all the cotton seized by order of Maj Genl Ord in the above entitled case - to wit six bales weighing as follows, 460, 490, 440, 465, 450, 470, = 2895 lbs at 16 Cts pr lb = $463,20 - $3 cost of repairs = $460.20, One lot seed cotton, the lot $60,00 total realized $520.20 -

Cost of suit as per endorsed statement $67,55
Paid to Anderson Smith 437 65
" " " 15,00
Total disbursed $520.20

The cotton in the bale brought 8 cts per pound, which was all it was worth, as it was very bad condition. All parties are perfectly satisfied with the Amount for which the cotton sold.

The Gross amount of Cotton subject to tax has been grossly misrepresented, either intentionally or otherwise, I am unable to determine which - One third of the award has been realized from the sale.

I am informed the defendant has personal property such as mules &c - Instructions as to the collection of the award or other requirements in this case are requested.

Very respectfully
Your Ob Servant
Wm Dawes
Bvt Maj. Genl R F & A L

Anderson Smith
vs
O R. Cockrill

Cost taxed as follows,

3 witnesses 2a per day $6.00 + 3 day attendance is $4.50	
Constable Fees	
Summoning 3 witnesses & returns 2a 40 cts ea	2.00
Mileage 5 miles 10 cts	.80
Returning same	1.25
Summoning Arbitrators	.50
Attending trial 2 days $2.50 pr day	5.00
Steamer Celeste bringing Cotton to Bluff	10.00
Transportation of Guard on Steamer	3.00
Total	$67.55

I certify that the above is a correct statement of the costs taxed in the above entitled suit: and that they have all been fully paid from the proceeds of the sale of the cotton taken by order of Maj Genl Ord & sold in conformity with the instructions of Feb 13, 1867

Bureau R F & A L
Pine Bluff March 6, 1867

Wm J Dawes
Bvt Maj. Genl R F & A L

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff March 8. 1867

Bvt Maj Genl
Asst Adjt Genl

Major

I have the honor to enquire upon what form of account I am expected to receive money I have advanced in the matter of evidence against Jones Mills

My respectfully
Your obedt
W. D. Mann
Bvt Maj Agent

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff March 16. 1867

Bvt Maj Genl John A. A. G.
Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock

Maj

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Circular No 7. C.S. from your Hdqrs & to respectfully ask further instructions under it. 1st I am unable to determine satisfactorily the desire of the Asst Comr expressed in the circular "if possible require" in the seventh line - Does he mean "desire" simply or to "Order" which would carry with it the idea of force to procure compliance & does he wish the Culprit placed under guard if necessary I should incline to the latter Construction were it not at variance with Circular No 32 of 1866 there being no criminal punishment inflicted on whites for violation or non-fulfillment of civil Contracts - I am applied to daily, to return fugitives by force & have hitherto refused using only the means to remedy the evil pointed in Circular No 9 March 1866 - I do not call for troops to do this without being apprised that it is the interpretation that the Maj Genl desires to be placed upon

2nd As Circulars No 3 1866 & No 7 C.S. modify or by this Circular or are they designed to be taken in connection - They provide that "any contract with certain conditions" & which is specified - Consequently a contract containing such a condition is not a "contract" unless amended can not be "fully good & I most respectfully request that the 2nd section No 7 C.S. be suspended in so far as it applies Jefferson County - I make this request with most extreme reluctance as the Maj Genl has declared his view of it unreservedly by its publication I would not for any trifling consideration appear to hold opinions antagonistic to those expressed in orders - But I am satisfied that facts exist in this County - Contracts are read to freedmen & signed & by them & by the employer in the presence of good citizens & the blacks frequently the whites have no more conception of what it means or what they are agreeing to than a person a thousand miles away. Very frequently read over a contract & ask the freedmen if that is as they agreed & they always say "Yes" We then take up each clause & explain it in conversational language stripped of all its superfluous & legal phraseology & they claim they comprehend & that I am so well convinced that in my distinct enforcement of this clause would require the enforcement upon an ignorant people of agreements they never dreamed they were making & which would be so glaringly unjust that the objects & aims of the Bureau would be entirely superceded. It would be so repugnant to my sense of justice & right to enforce a contract upon a freedman where manifest disadvantage had been taken of his ignorance that I am sure with a proper showing the Asst Comr would not require it. Contracts are now made with the expectation they will be submitted to the Secretary of the Bureau & if they are full of faults - what will they

be the moment. It is understood that they do not need appear in investigation except as far as to ascertain they have been read to & agreed to by both parties irrespective of the stipulations; or the various must & record the agreements thereto. In other parts of the State the case may be different but I think I know the wants of this County well for I have had & still have a great desire to accomplish what I am sent here for & may safely say that the enforcement of this Section will work great injury to the freedmen. I most cordially hope my motives in making this statement will be clearly understood & appreciated.

I shall rapidly enforce this & all others which I receive for my guidance but I should feel I was remiss in my duty if I did not speak out & the Asst Comr any & all matters coming within my observation affecting either for good or evil the race we are all devoting our time and energies to elevate. I respectfully request 75 Copies of Circ No 7. &c. for distribution in my County with permission to present a copy to each of our newspapers for gratuitous publication if they desire. If my request is granted with regard to the suspension of the 2nd Clause in this be please let the copies be printed with this matter

Very respectfully
Your Obdt Servt
Wm Davis
Bvt Maj Genl U.S.A.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Arkansas
March 14th 1867

Genl John Smith
Asst Comr
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith the following described papers. Affidavit of Wilson Rice, of Ross Rice, of Willis Davis - Transcript of trial of Ross Rice including all the evidence given on occasion. I trust these papers may be sufficient to order his arrest & for me to make any stir in procuring evidence lest the accused take flight & leave the county - If it is the pleasure of the Asst Comr that the arrest be made with these papers before him please notify me by telegraph - Do not use Nibbs name in any dispatch - I trust no one here.

If more affidavits are required before the arrest can be ordered please notify me & I will use all diligence to procure them.

Very respectfully
Your Obdt Servt
Wm Davis
Bvt Maj Genl U.S.A.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark March 15th 1867

Genl Clerk Assignments
Chf Dr Master
Bureau R. F. & A. L. State of Arkansas

Sir

I have the honor to transmit enclosed vouchers for Com[mutation] of Fuel & Quarters for February 1867. I desire to submit the following statement to aid in the proper settlement of my accounts. I have been serving during the past three years under a commission as Captain V.R.C.

On the 17th of January last I received and accepted an appointment as 2nd Lieut 43 U.S. Inf[antry]. I entertained the opinion that until I was discharged in order as Captain I could hold both positions

---

Tyler

Maj John Smith
Asst
Little Rock Ark

Sir

In response to your letters of 9th & 11th inst regarding the Murders

[illegible] forgery for one - with this belief I forwarded to your office vouchers for Commutation as Captain for the months of January & February. I am now informed that my acceptance of Appointment as Lieut. Concluded my service as Captain and that I am only entitled to the allowance of Lieut since January 17th last - I have received no returns from the vouchers sent to your office and have to request respectfully that you will substitute these papers for those sent previously for February and that you will enter upon them for the proper deduction for the overpayment as between Captain and Lieutenant from the 17th to the 31st of January and that you will send me check for the amount of the January and February Comts - I am entirely out of money for current expenses and you will confer a great favor by giving this matter the earliest attention your convenience will allow -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servant
W. J. Dawes.
2nd Lt 48th Mo Infantry
Bot Mg Agent

Bureau R F & A L
Pine Bluff Ark Mar 17th 1867

Tyler Maj Gno A.A.G.
Little Rock Ark

Major

Dr reply to your endorsement of the 18th inst directing me to report in detail the advances of Money in the matter of procuring testimony against Jones Webb, I respectfully submit the following statement:-

Horse hire (2 horses 4 days each)	$ 9, 00
Feeding same & horses with escort	5, 00
Cash (to Mrs Clegg to pay passage to Pine Bluff	
& time to Little Rock & return to her home) is	20, 00
Cash (to Col Allis to pay passage to Little Rock	

Rock and return to Pine Bluff (his charge for time & labor) is
Inspected Bill of Col Allis (being cost of his living while at Little Rock as recorded by him) is
Total
Very respectfully
Your obt Servant
W. J. Dawes.
Bot Maj. Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark. Mar

Tyler Maj Gno A.A.G.
B R F & A L

Major

Touching the Associate Commissioner may consider me remiss in reporting in the matter of fees to Mr Williams in the Jones Webb case. I have the honor respectfully to state that immediately upon the reception of your letter of March 1st I sent for Mr Williams and read to him the letter and requested him to state his views in the matter. I also read to him my letter to you of the 24th ult. that he might know fully my views and the state of the whole case. I proposed to endorse your letter of the 1st inst. referring it to him to make such statement as he might see fit - He assented to the proposition and further stated that he made no charge, and had made none, but that he would say in writing what he had to say. I immediately sent the letter to him enclosed. I saw him daily and he often spoke of intending to return the letter soon - two or three days since he returned the letter to me without endorsement stating he had written a letter on the case and gave two lengthy to put in the form of endorsement. And as soon as he

he would hand it to me - I have anxiously waited in vain for it - trembling lest the mail should bring a letter calling me to account for negligence in making my report. With this explanation I respectfully recommend that no fees be allowed Capt Jno A Williams for his services in the case of Dobro Webb until an account or charge is presented by him -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
Wm Dawes
Bvt Maj Asst BRF&AL

Bureau R F & A L
Pine Bluff Ark March 16th 1867

Byles Maj Jno AAAG
Bureau R&AL
Little Rock Ark.

Major

I have the honor to transmit herewith Vouchers for expenses of transportation for the Approval of the Assistant Commissioner. The trips were all made in compliance with the general instructions of the Commissioner in the adjustment of serious difficulties which could not be done at this office - Horse hire in the Webb case made during this period, is not included, but will be in another account, made under instructions from your office -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
Wm Dawes,
Bvt Maj. Asst B.R.F & AL

Bureau R F & A L
Pine Bluff Ark March 18th 1867

Jno Maj Jno AAAG
Little Rock. Major.

I have the honor respectfully to report that on the boundary line of Jefferson & Arkansas Counties, Ark, on one side and part on the other exists a disturbance affecting a large number of plantations, and calling out bitter threats & denunciations - I feel that the interests involved are too great to be intrusted to one person, especially as the matters effects both counties - In view of these statements I respectfully request that a board of two officers (of whom the Agent of Arkansas shall be one) be appointed and directed to meet in the grounds of the plantation of Messrs Dorr & McClure to hear and determine any and all difficulties on their places, or among any hands claimed by them, or claimed by others, and at work for them - Plantations thirty or forty miles from their places are nearly ruined by trouble claimed to exist there -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servant
Wm Dawes,
Bvt Maj. Asst BRF&AL

Bureau R F & A L
Pine Bluff Ark March 9th 1867

To whom it may concern:

Know are hereby notified that by authority vested in me as an Agent of this Bureau. I have seized all the cotton raised and remaining at this date on the Dr Waters plantation in Jefferson Co. Ark. and worked during the past year by Messrs Blackburn & Pomeroy, in order to secure the payment of the Freedmen in its cultivation -

All persons are forbidden removing or disposing of said Cotton until all the freedmen above mentioned are fully paid -

Upon proof of full payment being made to the freedmen, this order will be revoked

Wm Dawes -
Bvt Maj. Asst BRF&AL

Bureau R. F & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark. Feb 22, 1867

Col Henry Agm
Little Rock.

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith vouchers this day received from Arkansas County, and to request that you make your check for the amount payable to Maj Wm D Hale and mail it to him at his P.O. address is Faircloth Ark Co. Ark,

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
Jno. Davis
Byt Maj Capt 13 R.F.A.L.

Bureau R F & A L
Pine Bluff Ark March 24, 1867.

Quartermaster General
Washington D.C.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt apparently from your office of a communication dated March 12th on the subject of requisitions in the form of my return of Clothing C & E for January 1867. I respectfully return the communication for signature and in reply transmit copy of order placing me on duty in the Bureau, and the following statement -

I was commissioned Capt Co D 23. U.S.C.T. but have never seen any Company or made issue to it. I understood the enquiry of your letter of Nov 26, 1866 to refer to the organization of which I (who was an accountant) was a member and answered it with that understanding. I had been for a long period issuing clothing in a General Hospital to soldiers of every conceivable organization of the army, and my accounts had not been questioned, and I suppose in this instance the question from your office was caused by an omission on my part to give my inside title - If the furnishing this does not fully remedy the evil please inform me as to what is required, or refer me to such as will give me the needed information -

Par. 1159 AR refers to issue of clothing to men by company Commanders, and they are always be supposed to have an officer of the command officer with them -

These issues were made under Circular (War Dept Bureau R F & A.L. Washington D.C. Dec 11) 1865 which says "Witnessed by a third party" "when the recipient cannot write his name a mark must be witnessed by a disinterested person"

When these articles were issued there was not an officer or man Commissioned except myself nearer than Little Rock, one hundred miles distant by usually traveled route - These issues were made in good faith under the Circular and could not have been made otherwise.

L.D. Pease & J.W. Timm are both gentlemen in the employ of the Government in the Bureau and appointed by Genl Howard,

I respectfully request that with this explanation the issues already made be passed to my credit. I will hereafter be governed by the instructions of the Par. to which my attention is requested -

In further explanation I will state that I have been appointed 2nd Lieut 13 U.S.C.T. and that my returns will hereafter be rendered as such

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
Jno. Davis
2nd Lieut 13 U.S. Colrd Inf
Genl Supt Bureau Co D 23 U.S.C.T.
Post May 13, 1867

Bureau R.F.& A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark. Mar 25th 1867

Dr Boyd

Sir

Complaint is made to this office that you have in your employ a freed woman named Julia Collier who is under contract to Matilda A Buford and that you have been notified that she is under contract. If these statements are correct you will please immediately cause the return of this freedwoman and pay to Mrs Buford the amount of wages earned by her since the time you became aware of the fact of her being under contract.

The rules of the Bureau require in cases of this kind where planters upon being notified of the injury they are doing by retaining hands and thereby countenancing the violation of Contracts by freedmen. do not immediately repair the evil by returning the offender. that they be arrested and dealt with in accordance with orders. This statement is not made or designed as a threat. but that the design and working of the Bureau may be fully understood. Without some check of this kind upon evil disposed persons it would be impossible in the present scarcity of labor for any honorable person to make a crop.

I have no doubt you will give your hearty support to rules so absolutely necessary to the success of the country.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
Wm Davis
Bvt Maj & Asst Supt Bu R.F.& A.L.

Bureau of R.F.& A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark
March 27th 18

Smith Jas R.
Bvt Col & Supt Asst Commissioner
Dist of Ark & Ind Ter.

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith Oaths of Henry C. Dean, Rebecca Douglass and Arena Spratly. Employees of the Hospital for Refugees and Freedmen at this place. in conformity with Par 90. War Department G.O. Dated Washington D.C. July 16th 1862.

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Wm Davis
Bvt Major & Asst
Agent Bureau of R.F.& A.L.

Bureau R.F.& A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark March 29. 1867

Kenyon & Gray

Gentlemen

It is reported to me by Major Waldron that you have on your place a freedman Ransom Smith who is under Contract to labor for him (Waldron) Dated Dec 28th 1866. If there is such a freedman with you. and you have not a Contract with him of an earlier date. you will cause him to leave your premises without delay under penalty of being adjudged guilty of conniving with him to violate his Contract. And you would greatly oblige me if you would advise Smith to return to Major Waldron and fulfill his Contract with him. and say to him that in case of a failure so to do. he will be [illegible]

See Case 1 Book

and dealt with in accordance with the instructions for the guidance of the Agents of this Bureau - I trust he will save himself further trouble by a ready compliance with the regular requirements - If any party feels aggrieved in this matter, I will be pleased to hear their statements at my office at any time. I am required to enforce a strict compliance with Contracts on the part of Freedmen and shall do it.

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
W. F. Dawes
Agent B.R.F. & L.
Bureau R.F. & L.
Pine Bluff Ark March 30, 1867

Page Henry
Apt. Dr Master
Little Rock Arp

Colonel

I have the honor to transmit herewith the following Reports for the Month of March 1867 Viz -

Quarterly Statements A. B & C
Monthly Return D. M. Stores (Duplicate)
Monthly Return C. C & S. E. with Vouchers (Duplicates)
Monthly Return Bureau Stores with Vouchers (Duplicate)
Abstract of Purchases
Report of Persons & Articles (Duplicate)
Receipt Roll of Employees (Triplicates)
Vouchers for Purchases (2 Sets)
Vouchers for Rent (1 set)

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
W. F. Dawes
Asst Supt Agent B.R.F. & L.

Bureau R. F. & L.
Pine Bluff Ark March

Sherrill Dr. A.R.

Sir

The most of the complaints of
letter of the 30th inst against the freedmen to
your renters your land. are for the exercise of
they clearly hold under your contract with
With regard to the fencing, there is no time
in which it shall be done & it will be a q
to be decided whether repairing them at any t
during 1867 or 1868, or before the crop will be
to damage from the neglect will be a fulfil
of the contract in that respect - The Contrac
itself provides a remedy for the 2nd Complaint,
authorizes in case of neglect "the party of the f
may hire hands and charge the expense" -

The hands under your contract have a per
right to go to Pine Bluff or any other place
often as they choose and Mortgage their interest
in the crop, or in any thing else to whom
they please - They are now free and have the
same right of person and property as you or I -

I have no authority over them as long as they
perform their contracts in good faith and conduct
themselves properly in other respects - They are fre
to contract with whom and do they please -

You made such a contract with them a
was satisfactory to both parties, and both parti
came here and assented to it - I am instruct
to enforce its fulfillment by both unless by
mutual consent it is annulled -

I hope the parties will see the justice as w
as the necessity of a strict compliance wit
their Agreement. and if there are any hardsh
in it. they are only two years duration at
worst

Very respectfully Your Obt
W. F. Dawes

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark
March 31st 1867

Majr John
A.A.G.

I have the honor to transmit
Enclosed Monthly Report of Freedmen
And Monthly Report of Schools for March 1867

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Wm Dawes Bvt Majr
Agent Bureau R.F. & A.L.

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark
March 31st 1867

Tyler Majr John
A.A.G.

I am required by the Commissioner
to furnish an order authorizing the purchases
reported on my Abstract for the Month
of January - 1867 - These purchases include
fuel for Hospitals and office, and Lumber and
other material for repairing the Hospitals
and School buildings

I have the honor respectfully
to request an order to cover the case

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Wm Dawes Bvt Maj
Agent Bureau R.F. & A.L.

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark
(March 31st 18

Tyler Majr John
A.A.G.

Major

I have the honor to ack
the receipt of your communication of the 28th
Enquiring if the Services of Mr. L. J. Billings
Clerk may not be dispensed with. Upon
-nation of my Report of Persons & Articles
February, you will see that I discharged him
the last of February. This was done in an
-pation of so great a reduction of the business of
this office that he could be spared. I was
greatly deceived in my Expectations in this
regard. and this office has been crowded with
business to a greater extent than in any
previous Month. In order that the interests
committed to my care, should not actually
Suffer, it was necessary I should take him
up again on the 8th of this month. He appears
on my report of this Month. The rate of pay
Stipulated was $50. instead of $100 as shown
in his letter of appointment. I would endeavor
to get along with the labors of the Claim Department
in addition to my other duties, were I competent
for its discharge - but I am not. and cannot find
the time to inform myself properly, and do what
Else I must do. I do not have any leisure now
and if I had more time could use it any
profitably in visiting the Plantations, where
the presence of an agent is greatly needed.

I do not think Mr. Billings will be able
to attend to the duties of his appointment longer. There
is in the Hospital here a Steward who was formerly
1st Sergeant 17th U.S.C.T. and was two years under
my Command. He has given great
attention to the laws, orders & instructions

...in regard to Claims &c and I believe
...cused to the duty well. He has time in
...addition to his regular work to do this
...He has a family at the North to support &
...has lost a leg in battle. His salary now
...is but $33 ₰s month. In view of the facts
...of 1st his qualifications 2nd his loving time
...without interfering with his other duty 3rd
...the inadequateness of his pay 4th his claim
...upon the Govt in view of his loss 5th that
...the Government may retain his services
...which are valuable. This present place he holds
...temporarily while looking for business. I respectfully
...request Authority to give him this duty at a
...remuneration of Thirty ($30) dollars ₰s
...month & that I be authorized to take him
...upon my reports as an employee and to drop his Bill

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Wm. F. Davis
Agt Bureau R.F.&A.L.

Bureau R.F.&A.L.
Pine Bluff Arkansas
March 31st 1867

Howard Bvt Maj Genl &c
Commissioner
Washington D.C.

Sir
I have the honor to
transmit Enclosed a triplicate Copy each
as follows
Monthly Return 2d Mo Stores for Feby 1867
" " 6.6. & B.E. " " "
" " 2d Mo Stores " Month "
" " 6.6 & B.E. " " "
As the Copies for February were
to 2d Mo. of this Bureau to be forwarded by
him and were returned to me. They are
forwarded direct with the request that
receipt be acknowledged

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Wm F Davis Capt &c
Agt Bureau R.F.&A.L.
Bvt Majr. Agt Bureau R.F.&A.L.

Bureau R.F.&A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark March

Tyler Majr John
A.A.A. Ge Bureau R.F.&A.L.
Little Rock Ark
Majr

I have the honor to subm
the following report of the condition of affairs in
Jeffirson County District and the labors of the past
Month. on the first of the month an order was rec
dated Feby 26th discontinuing the Arkansas River District
and assigning myself as Agent of Jefferson
County. I anticipated a great falling off of
labor in this office in consequence. In this I
was greatly deceived. In no month since my
appointment in this Bureau has there been so
much work to do as in the month just closed.
Frequently the office has been thronged till
late in the night. A la most of this additional labor
has been occasioned by settling up long and disputed
accounts against Freedmen. And requiring a great deal
of talk and explanation to satisfy them. I have consider
it of even greater importance that the freedmen be
satisfied that they have full justice and have confi
in this employes. than the accounts be correct. It is deem
indispensible that this mutual confidence be cherished a
maintained. The appraisal of new contracts is
a work of great labor if properly done. I have
insisted that the contracts be fully un
and explained. The Inspectors have in all

Lem carefully compared - recorded - and filed. But a small portion of the contracts presented are fully understood in all their bearings before they are brought to the Bureau. Since the publication of Circulars No 7 there has been a great falling off of Contracts presented for approval - There are instances where freedmen do not care to have their contracts approved - but as a general rule they insist upon it. This has created trouble in some instances the freedmen refusing to work unless the contract was approved and filed with the Bureau and the Employer declining.

The instructions however were plain and the contracts held good when conforming to the requirements of the Circulars and the Compliance Enforced: Contracts have in all cases when presented been approved the same as before the Circulars was issued. The whole number approved to this date is 133. of which 13 are for wages by the month as per, & 120 for a share of the crop -

I am able to report a commendable industry and compliance with their contracts on the part of the freedmen. and good usage on the whole, on the part of the employers. Labor is still in great demand. Fifty per cts more labor could find ready employment at remunerative rates. Large tracts of lands will remain uncultivated this year and on most of the plantations a greater number of acres have been assigned to the hand than Experience would justify. This is one great cause of the want of good faith on the part of the freedmen in complying with their Contracts. and making a new one with every man that comes along and promises bigger things until some are on as many as five different Contracts. I note a marked improvement upon the Spring of last year in labor. The weather has been very favorable for early Spring work. Much time has been lost by the laborers in consequence and in a great measure they have become greatly demoralized

Freely. On several plantations on which everything is progressing smoothly if they had been employed in consequence of being idle they have become insolent and mutinous absolutely refusing to do a thing and defying the authority of the Bureau. Obeying no "any other man" - These cases have been but few and from the treatment I have all yielded to good and gone cheerfully to work and claim they intend to make the largest crop on the sions. one of this kind just reported has not yet been for ment of time. In but few instances have I been taken to procure settlement and in all cases one have been settled satisfactorily. I anticipate trouble upon one plantation upon which I have seized a lot of cotton and the planters are very defiant should any anticipations be realized a special report of the case will be made and instructions requested. I can make no recommendation for change in the adjustment of matters pertaining to contracts. The School interests have received a great impetus during the month. The presence and labors of Bvt. Lt. Col. in this county has been productive of great good last month we reported 8 day and 2 night Schools in operation. now we can report 6 day and 8 night Schools in good working condition last month we reported 199 pupils This month 372 pupils Arrangements are fully complete for five new Schools with a prospect of 240 pupils by the end of April to be able to report 18 Schools and 600 pupils as nearly by the total reported for the State in the last annual report. In accordance with instructions the School of Mrs Lyman has been removed from the Mess House which was prepared for it to a building rented for the purpose. I have visited the Schools in the city during the month and have witnessed to the commendable progress made. Some [illegible] token of the appreciation of the Labors of

Self Sacrifice teachers in the Colored Schools should be made at the proper time. If teachers could be supplied nearly all the children in the County could be provided for and gathered into Schools within six weeks. The prejudice against negro Schools is giving way and the Scheme is rapidly becoming popular. I Earnestly recommend the Erection of a Suitable building for Schools in this City on the ground Selected by Mrs Miller and that it be completed by the time the fall Schools should open. It is very important that the ground already Taken be held. And this city must necessarily be looked upon as the Head Quarters for Schools in this County. I Earnestly hope that Mrs Miller may be directed to reserve the names of this County for Schools to be opened this fall within a very few weeks. I believe more good can be accomplished by expending the same amount of labor in this County where the Schools are always becoming popular. than in a new field. I may be selfish in this as I desire to have the Counties County in this regard. but is it not a commendable Selfishness. And can you do better than to make use of it in bringing about so desirable an end?

I would again respectfully call your attention to the moral and religious condition of the freedmen. And Earnestly Entreat that something may be done to redeem these freedmen from Paganism at least. This own Preachers are the worst deprivation of the whole and their influence should be restricted. A Circular of the last day of Feb directed a statement to be made of the number of families births deaths &c &c to be made. In Compliance I immediately forwarded the blanks furnished to the various Employers of freedmen to the number of 85 of these only 7 have thus far been returned those already reported show as follows

No of families 85
No of Men 160
No of Women 130
No of Children 202
No born on last four years 123
No under 4 alive now 64
No Children died in 4 years 87
No of deaths in all in 4 years 160

I have caused a complete enumeration to be made of the freedmen of this City with the following results

No of families 154
No of Men 214
No of Women 292
No of Children 296
No born in last 4 years 168
No under four years alive now 95
No Children died in 4 years 83
No of deaths in all in 4 years 223

I find no cases of paupers as paupers except those in Hospital.

Some have already accumulated a considerable property of an amount of property. There are twelve in business for themselves as tradesmen and artisans about thirty freedmen of whom a portion own their dwellings and the rest rent by the Month. The houses of the freedmen are of the poorer possible description generally one room and two and three families in a room. The females exhibit great habits of industry than the males and take great interest in Schools. There are but very few Children of the proper age that do not attend School. The Hospital has been well conducted during the Month Dr Quinn the A.A. Surgeon in charge has had a violent illness and his duties in the Hospital have been kindly and faithfully performed in the mean time by Dr Evans A.A. Surgeon left in charge of Camp. The inmates of the Hospital are mostly old and chronic cases that will have to be supported by charity during this

[illegible] Existence. for a full report of these cases reference is respectfully made to the reports of the Surgeon in Chief. The inmates number 11 Men 10 Women 8 Children There has been two deaths during the Month. One of these Cases was a very bad Case of Small Pox but by great care on the part of the Dr and his Attendants it was not allowed to Spread

I have issued to destitute freedmen during the Month 10 Coats 16 prs Trowsers 1 Pr Coat 15 prs Shoes 25 prs Stockings 8 prs Drawers 10 Blankets

No Orphan Children have been indentured during the Month

Some labor has been expended in the preparation of Claims for back pay and bounty Etc no money has been received for Claims forwarded

An unusually Small number of brutal assaults upon freedmen have occurred during the Month as compared with previous Months I attribute this entirely to the presence of Soldiers at this Post and the fear of punishment caused thereby

The civil Courts in this County have for some time recognized the Acts of Congress known as the "Civil Rights Bill" the passage of an Act by this State legislature Approved July 6th 67 and circulated at the Commencement of this Month has a visible effect upon the Courts and has been of immense benefit to the freedmen

A marked improvement is to be seen in the late issue of the Press of the County and I am informed steps have been taken to purchase one of the papers and transform it into a union Justice loving Sheet

The good that will result from can not be over estimated. I believe public mind is not so much occupied political questions as before the passage reconstruction Act. but that more attention is being bestowed upon the pursuits of industry and in consequence quiet and peace will soon be restored

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Wm Davis
Bvt Major Agent B R F & A L

Bureau R F & A L
Pine Bluff Ark. April 11th 18

To Lieut Maj Jno A.A.G
Bureau R F & A L
Major

In reply to your communication of the 4th inst. I have the honor to state that Wm Billings was discharged on the 31st of March last. And the name of the Clerk to be appointed is H. C. D. Wolf. to date from April 1st 1867

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
Wm Davis
Bvt Maj. Agt B.R.F.&A.L

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark April 11th 67

Commanding Officer
Post of Pine Bluff
Sir

I have the honor to transmit enclosed affidavits in the case of an aggravated assault by one Richbourg on the person of Mary Martin, Colored. To request that your cause this man to be arrested and sent to Little Rock for trial

seen some of the wounds on this woman and am fully satisfied it is a most aggravated case - I have called upon the Civil Authorities and am informed that no attention can be paid to it as there is no officer to serve a writ -

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Jno Davis
Bvt Maj. Agt B. R F & A

Bureau R F & A L
Pine Bluff Ark April 2. 1867

Maj Gno
Asst Adjt Genl
Dept of Ark
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith Applications for additional Bounty in the cases of
Abraham Bogy Pvt Co A. 64 Regt Col Inf
John Bennett " " B " " " " "
David Calloway " " A " " " " "
Wm Dawson " " D " " " " "
Gerard Gibson " " D " " " " "
Isaac Gray " " D " " " " "
Jesse Hellems " " B " " " " "
Brent Hellems " " B " " " " "
Nathan Halsey " " G " " " " "
Hans Anderson Corp A " " " "
Ceber Jasper Pvt A " " " "
Paul Gado " D " " "
Washington Morrison G " " "
Alex Snapes " G " " "
James Shorter " G " " "
Levi Oliver " G " " "

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
Jno Davis
Bvt Maj Agt B. R F & A
at Pine Bluff Ark

Pine Bluff Ark
April 12. 1867

Haskell Mr

Sir

I have the honor respectfully request that you notify Ben Mathews a freedman who is under contract to labor for this year for Messrs Rice & McClure and who (I believe) on your place, that he is required to fulfill his contract and that he is immediately proceed to their plantation for that purpose - Should he fail to comply with this just and reasonable requirement serious consequences will ensue to him -

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Jno Davis
Bvt Maj. Agent B R F & A

Bureau R F & A L
Pine Bluff April 12. 1867

McGregor. Capt - Flower

Sir

I have the honor to request you to notify James Oliver and his two sons, freedmen - who are under contract to labor this year for Messrs Rice & McClure. that they must fulfill their contract with them. and must immediately report on their plantation for that purpose - Should they fail to comply with this just requirement the orders of the Bureau will be enforced upon them

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
Jno Davis
Bvt Maj. Agt B. R F & A

Bureau R. F. & L.
Pine Bluff April 12, 1867

Mr Clure

Sir

I have directed that the freedmen James Oliver and his two sons, Ben Mathews, Howard Collins, and George Handly who are under contract to labor on your place this year report to you for the fulfillment of their contract. Should they fail so to do after a reasonable time please notify me. and I will use such means to procure a compliance as is provided by orders of this Bureau

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
[illegible] Davies
Bvt Maj. Agent B.R.F.&L.

Bureau R F V & L
Pine Bluff Ark April 12th 1867

Tyler Maj Gen
Com A. L.

Sir

I have the honor respectfully to recommend that the sum of one hundred dollars be appropriated to aid in the erection of a Freedmen's School building on the Reed Taylor plantation in this county. The gentlemen who occupy this place are from the north and deeply sympathize in the cause of education among the freedmen. They have rented the place for two years. The owner of the place is greatly opposed to these schools. and will not treat a teacher with any show of respect even —

A building has been erected on the place for the home of a teacher at an expense to the lessees of not less than one hundred dollars. They have also built a school house but it is of such small dimensions the scholars cannot get into it even the present time much less pursue their studies. A building adequate to the wants of children on the place and the plantations immediately adjoining. And who are in attendance there would cost at least three hundred dollars. Of this sum one hundred dollars can be raised on the place if the Government will aid to the amount of one hundred dollars. I ask C Stoddard & Co the lessees to do more than they propose. I visited the school house which is in charge of Mrs Hitchcock an excellent teacher. and found everything in a prosperous condition. She urged upon me the necessity of sending a portion of the children out doors in order to give me room to sit down. and was then unable to pass about the room on the account of the crowd of pupils.

I would urgently press this case for the consideration of the Assistant Commissioner and respectfully ask authority to inform C Stoddard & Co that the appropriation asked for ($100) will be furnished

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
[illegible] Davies
Bvt Maj. Agent, B.R.F.&L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark April 19th 1867

Corporal

You will proceed by first boat to Swan Lake landing and on arriving there march to the plantation of Gene Rice and Maj Mc Clure and show these instructions to either of these gentlemen and request their advice and aid. and be governed

such suggestions as they may give you – In order to avoid suspicion you will take pains to let it be understood you are sent to take charge of a lot of cotton seized by the Bureau – The real object of your mission is to arrest Frank Williams who murdered a freedman some time since – He will probably try to have an interview with his family near Gene Rice's place, and you will if possible intercept him – You will remain in that section till you have secured him or heard from me – I expect to go down by boat tomorrow – If you arrest Williams you will use every precaution to keep him, and if he endeavors to escape and his escape seems probable, shoot him on the spot

Very respectfully
Your obt Servant
Wm Davies
Bvt Maj Agent B.R.F.A.L.

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Apl 22. 1867

Tyler Maj Jno
Cobb
Major

As the manual does not provide an allowance of travel to be issued to the Hospital after April 1st I respectfully request that the necessary orders be issued to authorize me to furnish it as I know of no other means by which it can be obtained.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
Wm Davies
Bvt Maj Agent B.R.F.A.L.

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Apl 22. 1867

Col Genl
I have the honor to transmit herewith account of Wills Frazier for against Majors Knelton, Reizenstein & Gray

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
Wm Davies
Bvt Maj. Agent. B.R.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Apl.

Tyler Maj Jno A.G., A.G.
Maj

At the request of Maj Davies I have the honor to transmit herewith statements of Majors Rice & McClure and Mr L Bell in relation to James Oliver (col) who contracted to labor for said Rice & McClure for the year 1867. Said Oliver has failed to comply with his contract, and Rice & McClure have appealed to this Bureau to have the contract enforced according to existing orders in relation to contracts with freedmen.

This is the first case of the kind ever presented at this office and is respectfully referred to the Asst Commissioner for instructions.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
L. Pease
Col

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark Apl 30 1867

Page Henry Bvt Col
A.D.C.
Col

I have the honor to transmit herewith Monthly Returns of C. C. & G.E. in triplicate with vouchers for the month of Apl 1867.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
Wm Davies

Bureau R.F.& A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark. April 30, 1867

Capt

Colonel

I have the honor to transmit herewith Monthly Returns of Quartermasters Stores in triplicate. for the month of April 1867.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
W M Evans
Bvt Maj. Agent B.R.F.& A.L.

Bureau R.F.& A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark April 30, 1867

Genl Henry Asst Adt

Capt

Colonel

I have the honor to transmit herewith the following Returns for the Month of April 1867. Viz
Monthly Return of Stores pertaining to B.R.F.& A.L. (Duplicate)
Abstract of Purchases (2 Vouchers)
Abstract of Issues (2 Vouchers)
Voucher to Abstract J. (Stationery Suspended)
Voucher to Abstract K. (No Vouchers)
Abstract of purchases during the Month (without Vouchers)

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
W M Evans
Bvt Maj. Agent B.R.F.& A.L.

Bureau R.F.& A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark April 30, 1867

Genl Henry Asst Adt

Capt

Colonel

I have the honor to transmit

herewith the following papers pertaining
duty in the Bureau R.F.& A.L. during
month of April 1867 Viz
Report of Persons & Articles Employed (Duplicate)
Receipt Roll of Employees (Duplicate)
Vouchers of purchases (2 Vouchers)
Vouchers pursuant (2 Vouchers)

Please permit the issuing of the above Vouchers at your earliest convenience.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
W M Evans
Bvt Maj. Agt B.R.F.& A.L.

Bureau R.F.& A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark May 1st 1867

Byers Jno Asst Surg U.S.A.
Little Rock Ark

Major

I have the honor to transmit herewith Monthly report of Freedmen for the month of April 1867.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
W M Evans
Bvt Maj. & Asst Adjt Genl

Bureau R.F.& A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark May 1st 1867

Colby Wm M
Genl Supt Schools

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith Report of Schools for the County of Jefferson Ark for the month of April 1867.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
W M Evans
Bvt Maj. Agt B.R.F.& A.L.

Bureau R F & A L
Pine Bluff Ark May 9th 1867

Lt Col D May
Asst Adjt Gen Little Rock

Major

I have the honor to call your attention to the following statement in relation to some children now with the widow Shannon on Walnut Ridge in Ark Co

Caroline & Eliza Jackson Col'd aged respectively 11 & 13 years were formerly owned by Mrs Shannon and have remained with her ever since they became free - About ten days ago Mrs Mary Ann Jackson their mother went to Mrs Jackson's Shannon's for the purpose of getting her children, but she (Mrs Shannon) refused to give them up Once the Mother has appealed to this Bureau for the custody of her children. And I am assured by good authority that she is able and competent to take charge of them -

I would respectfully request that you will investigate the matter and take such action as in your judgment will be for the interest of the children and report the same to this office at your earliest convenience -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
L Thomas Capt
In absence of Maj Dawes

Bureau R F & A L
Pine Bluff Ark May 11 1867

Page Henry Asst Adj
Chf Div
Colonel

I have the honor to transmit herewith Returns of Bureau stores in duplicate with Invoice for the months of May 1867 also

---

Quarterly Statement

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
Wm Dawes
2nd Lt Agt A A G & A L

Bureau R F & A L
Pine Bluff Ark May 11th 1867

Page Henry Asst Adj
Chf Div
Colonel

I have the honor to transmit herewith Returns of Bureau stores in duplicate with Invoice for the months of May 1867 also Quarterly Statement

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
Wm Dawes
2nd Lt Agt A A G & A L

Bureau R F & A L
Pine Bluff Ark May 16 1867

Page Henry Asst Adj
Chf Div
Colonel

I have the honor to transmit herewith Monthly returns of C. C & E in duplicate with Invoice for the months of May 1867 also Quarterly Statement of C. C. & E. for May 1867 -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
Wm Dawes
2nd Lt Agt A A G & A L

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark May 16. 1867

Henry Bvt Lieut
Ch Q. Master
Little Rock Ark

Colonel

I have the honor to transmit herewith vouchers for transportation and postage which you will please remit to Lt Reese at Pine Bluff Ark

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
W J Davies
Bvt Maj Agent B.R.F. & A.L.

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark May 16, 1867

Capt Henry Bvt Lieut
D.Q.M. B.R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Colonel

I have the honor to transmit herewith Reports of Persons & Articles Employed &c in duplicate with Vouchers, Also purchase Vouchers for the month of April 1867

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
W J Davies
Bvt Maj Agent B.R.F. & A.L.

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark

Bvt Brig Gen Jos B
A.A.G. Gen R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the h
to report that I have relieved Bvt
W J Davies 2d Lieut 43d U S Inf ma
to S.O. No 15 C.S. Asst Comsy Offic
and have receipted to him for all g
property for which he was responsi
I have to for compliance with S.O. No 1
as directed me to call on the Comdg Off
Post of Pine Bluff for Escort and
transportation necessary, and wou
State that he can furnish me wit
a sufficient escort but he says tha
he is short of transportation and
can furnish me with but three
Horses. I have hired three Horses
and one Saddle mule at two dollars
and fifty cents per Day. which is
all they I can possibly find that I
can hire. I am told by Bvt Major
Lewis T. Morris. that there are out
two Horses at Montecello. and
four at Hamburg. the latter are
said to be unserviceable. it will
doubtless be very difficult to procure
transportation. After I leave here
and I have concluded to take only
one Sergeant and three men with
me. the animals are pretty good
but the Equipments are very imperf
& purpose starting at two O. Clock
this P.M for Montecello Ark. and
shall leave my Office in charge

Bureau R F & A L
Pine Bluff Ark May 16. 1867

Henry Bvt Lieut Col
Chf Qr Master
Little Rock Ark

Colonel

I have the honor to transmit herewith vouchers for transportation and postage which you will please remit to Lt Rose at Pine Bluff Ark

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
W J Davies
Bvt Maj & Agent B.R.F.& A.L.

Bureau R F & A L
Pine Bluff Ark May 16, 1867

Maj Henry Bvt Lt Col
Dist. B.R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Colonel

I have the honor to transmit herewith Reports of Persons & Articles Employed &c in duplicate with Vouchers, Also purchase Vouchers for the month of April 1867

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
W J Davies
Bvt Maj & Agent B.R.F. & A.L.

Bureau R F & A L
Pine Bluff Ark

Bvt Maj Henry Jon b
A.A.G. Dist. B.R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the h
to report that I have relieved Bvt
W J Davies 2d Lieut 43d U S Inf
to S.O. No 16 C S Asst Comsy Offi
and have receipted to him for all
property for which he was responsi
I have to for complied with S.O. No 16
as directed me to Act as the Comdg Off
Post of Pine Bluff for escort and
transportation necessary. and would
State that he can furnish me with
a sufficient escort but he says that
he is Short of transportation and
can furnish me with but three
Horses. I have hired three Horses
and one Saddle mule at two dollars
and fifty cents per Day. which is
all that I can possibly find that I
can hire. I am told by Bvt Major
Lewis T. Morris. that there are only
two Horses at Monticello. and
four at Hamburg. the latter are
said to be unserviceable. it will
doubtless be very difficult to procure
transportation. After I leave here
and I have concluded to take only
one Sergeant and three men with
me. the animals are pretty good
but the Equipments are very inferi
I purpose Starting at two O. Clock
this P.M for Monticello Ark. and
shall leave my Office in charge

of Pvts L. DuBoise who has been employed as Clerk for over a year and is well acquainted with the duties of this office

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
A. Geisreiter
1st Lieut 6th U.S. Col Cav
Act Asst Com Subs RFFA L

Bvt Maj Gen R.B. Marcy
Chief of Staff
Dept of the Cumberland
Louisville Ky

Sir

I have the honor to report that in obedience to S.O. No 46 Hd Qrs Asst Com Subs Office Louisville Ky dated 26th ult I left Pine Bluff Ark. on the 16th inst with the escort and teams as per Bvt Maj Genl Davis's order of the 28th ult. for Camden Ark. Upon my arrival at Pine Bluff I found that the Asst Com Subs had not furnished the Mules with forage for the trip and that the Mules were in poor condition for the trip. I therefore purchased forage for my horses and accommodations for myself and men. I started the Several of the teams that side of Pine Bluff to camp that night but in order that I had some private conversation with the Asst Com Subs at Pine Bluff before I left. I started early on the morning of the 17th inst. and arrived at the camp of the 63d Ind Vol Infty about two miles this side of Monticello Ark. Lieut Col Lyon Commdg. Upon my arrival at Monticello I was informed by Lieut Col Lyon that he did not have the transportation required. I therefore directed First Sergt J. Wilson 19th Army Corps to issue to him the transportation required. I then proceeded to the camp of the 19th Army Corps and found that the Asst Com Subs had issued to the 19th Army Corps 20 wagons and 120 mules. I then proceeded to the camp of the 63d Ind Vol Infty and found that the Asst Com Subs had issued to them 20 wagons and 120 mules. I then proceeded to the camp of the 19th Army Corps and found that the Asst Com Subs had issued to them 20 wagons and 120 mules. I then proceeded to the camp of the 63d Ind Vol Infty and found that the Asst Com Subs had issued to them 20 wagons and 120 mules.

for one. I procured one wagon and two mules additional escort and proceeded to Hamburg, arrived about ten P.M. I found good accommodations for teams and men at the camp of a detachment of the 28th Ind Infty under Lieut J.S. Taylor. The agent of the Bureau of Refugees

Lieut Taylor gave me all the assistance in his power. He assured me that I could at least five of the witnesses but had no information for them. I found by careful enquiry among the citizens that not an animal could be hired. Sergt Stephen Green 28th Infty was under orders to report to camden with a detachment of soldiers. He had a mule team with him. I got authority to detain him at Hamburg to take two of his best mules, hitched them to a light covered wagon. I hired from E.W. Abottan & Co and started from Hamburg at 10 A.M. of the 19th with the following named persons. Jessie Titus Co G. 63rd Ind Vol Infty Carpenter (Colrd) Willis Robinson (Colrd) and Vinz Jackson (Colrd) with an escort of one Sergt one Corporal & six men together with one Sergt in charge of the team and a soldier as driver. It was impracticable to obtain the other witnesses. They being either too far away unable to travel by reason of sickness or old age, or have removed their residence to places unknown. And even if I could have found them all ready to accompany me I could not have brought them for want of transportation. There was considerable excitement upon my departure proceeding in and about Hamburg and when we started the entire population seemed to be out to witness our departure.

Heavy rains during the night previous made the roads very bad. Stopped about two o'clock P.M. to feed the mules and horses and had dinner for the party in the house near by reached Monticello about ten o'clock at night found suitable quarters for the witnesses and sent the escort and teams with the horses to camp. On the 20th inst

I ordered the team back to Hamburg it being unsafe to go further with a load. I requested of the Com'dg Officer Post of Monticello a suitable conveyance for the party in my charge who informed me that he had no teams that he could spare to go to Pine Bluff. But that a train of government Wagons was about to start for that Point that could take them. There being no other alternative I had to take such transportation as I could get. Sixteen Men after seeing the party started I left Sergt Belt in charge with two men, and strict instructions to stay with the train and report to me at Pine Bluff upon his arrival with the party. I supplied him with funds to defray necessary expenses. and directed him to see that the witnesses were as well cared for as circumstances would permit. I then took one Soldier with me and posted on for Pine Bluff to procure Braggins Kitterell and Cannon before the arrival of the train. owing to constant rain the roads were very bad in places. I had to swim a Stream named Turtle Creek. and arrived at Pine Bluff 11 A M May 21st 67 when I received a Telegram from Asst Com'rs of the 17th ordering me not to go to Hamburg until further orders. I Telegraphed to the Asst Com'r that I had been to Hamburg & brought five of the witnesses and if I should come to Little Rock with them to what I be sent this answer. The Trial of Ralf has been Postponed. he retains return home. I informed them to that Effect Mrs Jessie Tolles & Mrs Cannon have gone to day they being entirely without funds I defrayed all their Expenses. and furnished them with Enough money to get back as the Carpenter Col'd Tolles Robinson & Riley Jackson (Col'd). are State Also Contingt funds. They would like to stay in Jefferson County And are afraid to return to Hamburg. Lieut J. S. Taylor thinks it would not be safe for them to return and I fully agree with him. His families are still at Hamburg Consisting of two adults and Seven Children and I would respectfully recommend that Lieut Taylor be furnished transportation & instructed to send the children to this point. as their Mothers will be anxiously awaiting their arrival. One of the adults is the wife of the Carpenter (Colored). and the other an infirm old man named Bill Thornton who is dependent upon Tolles Robinson for support. The Expenses for the trip for livery, Fire feed for Animals and Subsistence for witnesses will amount to near two Hundred Dollars. for the farmers ranchers can be given. for the latter I was obliged to advance the money out of my private funds I would respectfully ask for information in behalf of the witnesses as to whether they are entitled to mileage & allowances and pay for each day necessarily absent from home and if so to be furnished with the necessary instructions to enable me to collect it for them

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
D Guarantee
Lt 5th U S Cav
Agt B of R & A L

Index

Roll 19

Target 2

SUBORDINATE FIELD OFFICES
Pine Bluff (Superintendent of Arkansas River District)

Letters and Orders Received
July 1866–Feb. 1867

Dep. R. F & A. L.
Mo. Arx, & Ind. Territory
A. C. Office
Little Rock Arx, July 5. 1866

S. O.
58.

× × × ×

4. Brt Major Wm J. Dawes appointed Genl Supdt & Prov. Marsh. Hd Qrs at Fort Blunt Arx. × ×

× × × ×

Bureau R. F. & A.L.
For the States of Mississippi Arkansas & Indian Territory
Office Asst Comr
Little Rock July 5th 1866

Special Orders
No 58.

4 Capt and Bvt Major
Wm. J. Davis 23rd U.S.C. having reported in
Compliance with Par 2 Special order No 69.
U.S. War Dept Bureau R.F. & A.L. is hereby assigned to duty as Genl Superintendent and Pro Mar
Arkansas River District with Head Quarters at
Pine Bluff Ark Whither he will proceed and
enter upon his duties without delay. To av
oid delay Local Superintendents will forwar
-d required Monthly Reports direct to this
Office forwarding the Genl Supt Copies of
of the same for his information.

By Order of
Bvt Maj Genl J.H. Sprague Asst Comr
(Signed) D.H. Williams
Asst Adjt Genl

A true Copy
Wm J. Davis
Bvt Maj Gen.

Office Asst Comr
Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark
July 5th 1866.

Sprague J. W.
Bvt Maj Genl Vol
Asst Commissioner
B. R. F. & A. L.

Special Orders No 58.
assigning Bvt Maj
W. J. Dawes as Genl
Supt Ark River Dist
Bureau R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
For the States of Missouri Arkansas & Indian Territory
Office of Asst Comm
Little Rock July 5th 1866

Special Orders
No 66

4 Capt and Brvt Major
Wm. J. Sawes 23rd U.S.C. Infy reported in
compliance with Par 2 Special Order No 64
H.S. War Dept Bureau R F & A.L. is hereby assigned
to duty as General Superintendent and Provost
Martial Arkansas River District with Head
Quarters at Pine Bluff Ark whither he
will proceed and enter upon his duties
without delay. To avoid delay Local Sup-
erintendents will forward the required
Monthly Reports direct to this office
forwarding the Genl Supt Copies of the same
for his information

By order of
Bvt Maj General J.W. Sprague asst Adjt Gen

(Signed) D.H. Williams
Asst Adjt Genl

A true Copy
Wm J Sawes
Bvt Major U.S.A.

Report of Labors

for

Jno. Wesley

Hiram F. Willis

2d Lieut. Co. H. 7th Regt. Ohio Vols.

De Kalb Bluff

Arkansas

Office Supt. R.F. & A.L.
De Vals Bluff Ark July 31st 64

Capt. Dennis A. Williams
A.A.G. B.R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Captain

I have the honor to forward my monthly report of duties as Supt. of R.F. & A.L. at this place for the month ending July 31st 1864

I was ordered here to relieve Lieut H.S. McCullough by S.O. No 58 from Hd Qrs of the Bureau of R.F. & A.L. at Little Rock Ark

In compliance with S.O. No 58 (Extract) Lieut H.S. McCullough transferred to me, on the 12th Inst. all the property and monies pertaining to the Bureau at this place and I assumed charge of the Office at this place on the same date

My duties during the month have been confined principly to the settlement of difficulties between Freedmen and their employers which occur very frequently.

On the 21st Inst. I started for the town of Monroe on an Inspection tour. To satisfy myself if possible how the Freedmen and their employers were getting along. I left a

week in traveling from one plantation to another. I found that on most of the plantations as a general thing the Freedmen were getting along well, although there was considerable complaint on the part of the employers, to the effect that their employees were inclined to be dilatory not getting out to work in time in the morning, and at noon. I found that these complaints were not well founded. as I saw that many of them did not get out to work in the morning until an hour and more after sunrise and, not until three o'clock in the afternoon. I talked with the hands on most of the plantations & visited and explained to them the nature of their duties and the obligations of their contracts, which I think had a good effect upon all I found two difficulties existing between the two classes which I settled as follows. A colored boy having complained that one Mr Buck had kicked and abused him I investigated the matter and found that Mr Buck had been guilty of the offence and did not pretend to deny it. so I fined him twenty dollars. The other case was one about some mellon vines being planted among the cotton and

proved to be a very trivial affair. both on the part of the employees and the employees & found that Lieut McCullough had a school in progress for the Freedmen which is still doing finely. Since I have been here I have issued rations in two cases where the subjects were helpless. When I came here I found everything running in good order and with a good deal of system, & the country I travelled over I found the planters dissatisfied in having so few difficulties to what they expected would occur last Spring when they made their contracts. The system of free labor governed by the Bureau is much nearer a success than they ever anticipated it proved be. and now although some of them dont favor the Freedmens Bureau. most of them have manifestly ~~changed~~ come to the conclusion that they cannot get along without the Freedmens Bureau. even its worst enemies are anxious to have the Agent to rent their plantations and ~~sell~~ to the Freedmen in their employ

I am Genl
Very Respectfully
Your Obdt Servt
(Signed) Hiram F. Willis
2d Lt 22d U.S.C.T. & Supt Bu Ref & Lds

Report of Sales

for

August 1866

Thomas F. Wells

2d Lieut 9th Infty U.S.A.

De Bals Bluff

Arkansas

Office Supt. R. F. & A. C.
De Vals Bluff Ark. Aug 31st 64

Capt. Dennis A. Williams
A. A. G. B. R. F. & A. C.
Little Rock Ark

Captain

I have the honor to forward the following report of my labors as Supt of R. F. &c. at this place for the month ending August 31st 1864

My labors as those of the previous month have been confined almost exclusively to the settlement of difficulties between Freedmen and their employers and between Freedmen themselves, but such difficulties have been of less number and of minor importance to what they were last month. with the exception of one or two cases which I will mention. A complaint was filed in my office to the effect that one Patterson of Monroe Co had shot a colored woman through the neck thus inflicting a very severe wound. While in the vicinity of their the woman lived I visited the plantation to investigate the affair, and found the woman in a very dangerous condition from the wound I send Pattersons statement about the matter in which he claimed that he shot the woman in self defence, that while attempting to strike her, she kicked at

the ax and struck at him & then heard the woman's statement which was the same in substance as that related by Patterson & thought I would let the matter rest until I could report and get some instructions about such cases. In the mean time I received Gen Grants late circular in regard to the arrest and confinement (until tried by the civil authorities) of persons guilty of crimes against Union men and Freedmen

In compliance with said circular I proceeded to the residence of Patterson with a guard to arrest him. but he had left for another part of the state and I have not heard of him since. but I formed that by going into the country with a guard was not altogether fruitless, as I had hardly got back before I received numerous letters from citizens of that part of the county inquiring what they should do in such and such events with the Freedmen

I have had no school for Freedmen this month owing to the bad weather, and so much sickness existing among the col'd population. I wish to make a statement here about the number of (col'd) people in this place, and how they get along.

There are about One hundred and Fifty white people in this place, and about three times as many col'd people, who are mostly employed by the white people at Rattan for wages. The work consisting principly of Job work, at which they are not employed more than half the time, and by which

work they will make sufficient to live on but they prefer to live in that style rather than go out into the country to work where they can get from twenty to fifty dollars per months Since the cholera has been here they have been dying at the rate of about four per day and I have had to furnish coffins for many of them at the expense of the Bureau as there are many of them too poor to bury members of their own families. relations or friends I have thought much and studied over this matter a great deal. and think it would be a benifit to them & the Bureau would take it upon themselves to place them in the country to work where they could make enough and plenty to live on and buy one another But this I am prohibited to do in my orders and so I am powerless to act in the case, and must furnish them with coffins. as I have them lie and rot in town, which tends to spread the disease more than anything else that could happen. I have talked to them frequently about the necessity of their finding permanent employment and a home but it seems to do no good

I am Captain
Very Respectfully
Your Obed't Servt
(Signed) Hiram F. Mills
Lieut & B.R.C. & Asst'l R.C. & A.A.G.

Little Rock Ark
Sept 18th 1866

Williams D. A. C.

Asst Adjt Genl

(1)

Encloses herein copy of Circular
No 21 from this Hd
Qrs Requesting attention
to Monthly Reports
therein called for

Sept

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR THE STATES OF MISSOURI, ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY.
Office of Assistant Commissioner,

Little Rock, Ark., Sept 18th 1866

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose you a copy of Circulars No 21 from these Hd Qrs. requesting your attention to the monthly report therein called for.

This Report has not been received from any of the Superintendents of your District.

You will instruct the District Superintendents to carefully keep the record as required

Respectfully

S. N. Williams,
Asst Adjt Genl

To
Bvt Maj Wm J. Dawes.
Genl Supt Arkansas River Dist.
Pine Bluff, Ark.

Hd Qrs Pine Bluff Ark
Sept 29th 66

Respectfully returned
with the information that
an Orderly is furnished
for the Office of Provost
Marshal Each day
at 9 O.M. and I know
of only one Office of the
above at this post.

Yours Respectfully
James Wilson
Lieut 9th U.S. Infty
Comdg Post

Pine Bluff
Noah

Pine Bluff -
Sept 29 - 66

Dawes W. J -

Sept 29/

Bureau of Refugees Freedmen & Abandoned Lands
For the State of Missouri Arkansas & Indian Territory
Office of Assistant Commissioner
Little Rock Ark July 5th 1866

Special Orders
No 5-8

4 Capt. and Bvt. Major Wm. J. Dawes 23rd U.S.C. having reported in compliance with Par. 2 Special Orders No. 69. C.S. War Dept. Bureau of R.F. & A.L. is hereby assigned to duty as Genl Superintendent and Provost Marshal Arkansas River District with Head Quarters at Pine Bluff Ark. whither he will proceed and enter upon his duties without delay. To avoid delay, Local Superintendents will forward the required Monthly Reports direct to this office, forwarding the Genl. Supt. copies of the same for his information

By order of
Bvt. Maj. Genl J W Sprague Asst. Comr.
(Signed) D. H. Williams.
Asst. Adgt. Genl

Genl. Supt &c
A true copy Ark River District
Howard. E. Stansbury
Capt. 19th Inf'y Judge Advocate U. S. A.

Bureau, Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands,
Office Gen'l Sup't & Provost Marshal,
Arkansas River District.

Pine Bluff Sept. 29th 1866.

Sir

I have the honor to request that you will detail a private Soldier from your command to report to me for daily duty at my office, as orderly. I enclose a copy of the order assigning me to duty at this place

Very Respectfully your
Obt Servt.
Wm J Dawes.
Bvt Maj. & Genl Supt
Ark Kansas River Dist.

Commanding officer
Pine Bluff
Arkansas.

Report of Labors

for

September 1866

Herman E. Willis

2d Lieut 8th Regt U.S.A.

De Bois Bluff

Minn

&c

Office Supt. R. F. & A. L.
De Vals Bluff Ark Sept. 30th 64

Capt. Dennis A. Williams
A. A. G. R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark
Captain

I have
the honor to forward my monthly
return of labors as Supt of R. F. & L.
at this place for the month ending
Sept 30th 1864

My labors during the
present month have been much of
the same nature as heretofore
Several cases have come up before
me for investigation which I have
turned over to the civil authorities
one of which I will mention

A col'd man by the name of Fisher
came to me and complained that two
men by name of Peoples and Booth
came to him and entreed him to
go and help him look for some cattle
that they said were lost in the woods
and when they got about twenty miles
from town. they hung him several
times for stealing mules of which they
said he was guilty. every time they
would let him down. they wanted
him to confess that he stole the mules
or to tell them who did it. but he
told them that he was innocent and
knew nothing of their mules

but finally he made enough a story as he says and told them that if they worked let him go they he would take them to the men that stole their mules. They then let him go and on coming into town he immediately came to me and laid in his complaint & had the men arrested and put in the Blockade until the civil authorities affixed bail for them when I turned them over to them but as Fisher had nothing on which to substantiate his case but his affidavit the case with the men were dismissed They then turned and brought suit against Fisher for stealing mules but as he proved that he was absent at the time the mules were taken it did not amount to anything at all I have no doubt within my own mind but what they did attempt to force a confession from Fisher by hanging him for it is not the first time (I learn from Lieut McCullough) that they have been up before the Bureau for trial and I do not think that the col'd man would have made such a story of that kind out of nothing. In most of the cases tried by the civil authorities in which Freedmen are concerned their ignorance of law is taken advantage of in every respect unless the Agent of the Bureau is on hand to prevent it I know that since they have been trying cases double the number have been brought up than there was before They are sued for all kinds of trifling debts half of which are not just but owing to their ignorance they are unable to prove that it is so, or that it was once paid and they received no credit for it —

I am well satisfied that the Freedmen here cannot all subsist on what they earn by honestly and lay around the streets the way they do. as wages are not as good here as in the country. and then they do not always get their pay in cash for their job work but have to take it out in trade at such prices as best suit the employer as the one for whom they work There are over five times the number of Freedmen here than there are white people. and many of the women are without work. and they are afraid to go into the country to work for fear that they will be mistreated. Many of them when sick have to be furnished with Medical attendance. and whenever this is the case I furnish them medical attendance and if they get well have them work and pay for it. but as a matter of course many die and then the Bureau must foot the bill. while if they were in regular employment this would not be the case. They succeeded in raising a freedmens aid Society here among themselves to aid their poor and helpless but it failed of any good for want of funds. There is a great deal of complaint even about the Freedmen refusing to work but I think it hardly owing to their treatment that they do not work better in many cases. Many of the planters selling them goods at fabulous prices. but may few case occur now in my District where violence is used to get them to work well

(Signed)

I am Gen'l Major
Very Respectfully
Your Obdt Servt
Wm. P. Mellis
Lt. U.S.C.T. & Supt. Freedmen

Return of Lubs

for

the 2nd Quarter

ending Sept 30th 1864

Aaron F. Willis

2d Lieut 3rd Batt. D.C. Vet

De Vols Bluff Ark

R C

Office Supt. R. F. & A. L.
De Vals Bluff Ark Sept 30th 1866

Capt. Dennis N. Williams
A. A. G. B. R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark
Captain

I have the honor to forward herewith my report of labors as Supt of R. F. & A. L. at this place for the Quarter ending Sept 30th 1866

In compliance with orders from Hd Qrs Bureau of R. F. & A. L. for Ark Miss and Ind. Territory, I proceeded hence on the 8th of June 1866 to relieve Lieut W. S. McCullough. On my arrival at McCullough immediately proceeded to turn over to me all books & papers of his possession pertaining to the Bureau at this place and I assumed charge of the office

My duties since then have been much the same from one month to another, consisting mostly in the settlement of difficulties which arise between the Freedmen and their employers, and between Freedmen themselves. Some of which, especially the most important I have already reported in my monthly reports & find that most of the difficulties which arise between the two classes spring from what the employers regard

as Military Conduct and insolence
or impudence as they call it on
the part of the Freedmen

I must say
that the first part of the complaint
from all I have seen is not an
unjust one, for many of them are
inclined to be idle and good
for nothing. but this impudence as
they are pleased to call it generally
consists in the Freedmen claiming
their rights as free men For instance
if a Freedman is accused of any
misdemeanor by his employer or
any one else he must not deny
it, innocent or guilty, or he will be
considered as saucy and guilty
of impudence to a white man
and the consequence generally is that
something more powerfull than
words is resorted to, to punish the
offender but I think that these
people are slowly learning that they
must get over their deep seated
prejudices toward the Freedmen
or bring upon themselves an injury
not easily overcome. for those that
mistreat them cannot easily live
more hands after one has
forsaken them as any occurence of
that kind soon spreads among
the Freedmen everywhere, But while
the employer is to blame to a great —

extent the Freedmen are not altogether
innocent of they were to evince by
their words as well as by actions
that they were willing to go among
the people in the country and work
more than they do they would get
along much better. I also think
if there was more protection and
security offered the employer in his
contracts with them they would feel
more kindly disposed toward them
& have endeavored to impress it upon
the minds of all the Freedmen with whom
I have talked. that they must be faithfull
and honest in their dealings and
honorable in the fulfillment of their
contracts or they too will work for
themselves and injury not easily over-
come The more intelligent of them
are willing to take advice and profit
thereby. I find that both time
and patience are requisite for
the accomplishment of good among
them

I am Captain
Very Respectfully
Your obedt Servt
(Signed) Hiram B. Willis
2d Lieut 22nd C.R.C. & Supt &c

Capt Cobb
Asst Gen Supt
Bluff District

W. D. McCullough Clerk

Dept of State
Washington D.C.
Oct 3. 1864

Seward Hon W. H.
Sec of State -

In regard to Buchanan
contracting to go to foreign
Countries -

Oct

Department of State,
Washington Oct 3 - 1866.

Maj. Genl O. O. Howard,
Superintendent of the Freedmen's Bureau,
Washington, D. C.

General,

This Department has information that plans are on foot to lead Freedmen to move abroad and in particular to Peru, upon a promise of higher wages than they receive at home, and probably other inducements.

As there is reason to belive that these promises will not be fulfilled, it is deemed to be the moral duty of the Government to prevent the freedmen being imposed upon by them. It is consequently suggested that officers of your Bureau, be instructed to advise the freedmen to be cautious how they conclude bargains to go to foreign countries.

I am, General
Your Obt Servt
(Sgd) William H. Seward.

Official Copy respectfully furnished for the information of Bvt Major General J. W. Sprague, Asst Comrs for Mo. & Ark. who is directed to comply with the suggestions contained in the foregoing letter of the Secty of State. Contracts with freedmen will not be approved by Asst Comrs when they are required by the terms of the contract to pass beyond the limits of the United States. Such proposed contracts, if any exist, must be forwarded to Washington for the consideration of the proper authorities.

By order of Major General Howard, Comr's

(Sgd) A. P. Ketchum

A. A. A. Genl.

Bureau R. F. & A. L. Oct 9th 1866.

Official Copy respectfully furnished Bvt Major Wm J. Dawes, Genl Supt, for his information and guidance should any such contracts be presented in his District.

By order of

J. W. Sprague, Asst Comrs,

Geo E. Dayton,

Chief Clerk.

Bureau R. F. & A. L. Mo & Ark
Little Rock Oct 17th 1866

Office B.R.F. & A.L.
Napoleon Ark Oct 4th 1866

Redemon J.P.
2nd Lieut 9th U.S.C.
Supt B.R.F. & A.L.

Reports an office of
the Bureau established
at Napoleon Ark

Office Supt B. of R.F. & A.Le
Napoleon Ark. Oct 4th 1866.

Bvt Maj. G. J. Dawes
Genl. Supt Ark. River Dist.
B. of R.F. and A.Le

Maj:

I have the honor to report that I have arrived at this place in accordance with Par. 5. Special Orders. No 58. dated Office of Asst. Commissioner Bureau of Re.F. and A Le. Little Rock Ark July 5th 1866. and that I have established an office of the Bureau, for Desha County Ark. at Napoleon.

I have the honor to be Maj'
Very Respectfully
Your Obedt Servt,
J. C. Prudence
2nd Lieut 9th U.S.C.C.
And Supt B of R.F. & A.Le.

Hed Qrs B. R. Ft + ad
Office asst Comr
Lititz Pa Oct 4 "66

Sprague J. W.
Maj Genl + asst Comr

. advises the Consolidat
ion of the office of
the Genl Supt with that
of the local office, in
order to curtail expe
nses as much as possi
ble

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,

FOR THE STATES OF MISSOURI, ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY.

Office of Assistant Commissioner.

Little Rock, Ark., Oct 4 *1866.*

Major

It has occurred to me that possibly you might consolidate the Offices at Devil Bluff so as to have your own and that of the Local Supt. together and in this way dispense with one Clerk save Office rent fuel &c and then you could exercise a better supervision over the local Office - The question of economy is an important one - please think of the matter and see if you cannot make the Change

Yours Respy.

O. H. Spragins

Capt. & Com

Bvt Maj Genl J. Sawyer

Supt &c

Devil Bluff

Bureau Courts

Bureau R. F. & C. L.

Office of Asst Com

Litto Rvcl Soc'ty 86

Williams D. H.

Asst Adjt Genl

Encloses instructions for the Conduct of Cases which may Com mein the Jurisdiction of the Bureaun

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Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR THE STATES OF MISSOURI, ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY.
Office of Assistant Commissioner,
Little Rock, Ark., Oct 5th 1866

Bvt Maj. Wm J. Dawes,
Genl Supt's R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff, Ark,

Major,

By direction of the Asst Com'r I enclose herewith for your guidance, instructions which Genl Howard wishes you to follow in the conduct of cases which may come within the jurisdiction of the Bureau, Where Bureau Courts have been abolished they will not of course apply, but will be for your guidance at points, where they may still exist, or in case it shall become necessary to reestablish them

The Asst Com'r desires that you will not allow these instructions to be published as they are for your own guidance.

Very Respectfully, &c,
D H Williams
Asst Adj't Genl.

Hd Qurs B.R.F+A.L.
Arkansas Districts
Pine Bluff Oct 5th 1866
Oct 8—

Dawes Wm. J.
Capt V.R.C. Bvt Major U.S.A

makes application for authority to hire citizen to do duties as orderly at this office

Bureau R. F. + A. L.
Ms. Ark + Ind Ter
Little Rock Ark Oct 8/66

Respectfully returned,
The Asst Commr suggests that if the two offices of Genl + District Inspars consolidated, as suggested in letter of Oct 4th but one Orderly will be required

By Order of
J. W. Sprague, Asst Comm
Geo E Dayton
Chief Clerk.

Endorsement 8/10 312

10.21
Oct 2/66

OCT 8 1866 LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

Bureau, Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands,
Office Gen'l Sup't & Provost Marshal,
Arkansas River District.

Pine Bluff Ark
Oct 5th 1866.

Sir

I have the honor to apply for authority to hire a citizen to do the necessary duties as orderlies at this office to be paid by the Quartermasters Department, — having made an unsuccessful application to the Commanding Officer of this Post for the detail of a Soldier for this purpose

Very Respectfully
Your Obdt Servt
Wm J Dawes.
Capt 5 R. C. 63d U.S.C.T.
Genl Supt Ark River Dist

A. A. Genl
Bureau of R F & A.L.
Little Rock Ark

~~S. O. 20 Oct 10/66~~

9036 - D

Bureau R. F. & A. L.

Little Rock Ark

Oct 10 1866

Sprague J W

Asst Com'r State of Ark

Gives form of oath to be taken by all Agents and Employees of the Bureau before entering upon the duties of their Office

Bureau of Refugees Freedmen & Abandoned Lands
for Military Division of Indian Territory
Little Rock Ark Oct 6th 1866

Special Orders
No 86

3. Whereas required by the act to continue in force & amended "An act to establish a Bureau for the relief of Freedmen & Refugees" approved July 6, 1866 that all Officers Agents & employees of this Bureau before entering upon the duties of their Office, shall take the oath following "I. A. B. do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I have never voluntarily borne arms against the United States since I have been a citizen thereof, that I have voluntarily given no aid countenance counsel or encouragement to persons engaged in armed hostility thereto - that I have neither sought nor accepted, nor attempted to exercise the functions of any office whatever under any authority or pretended authority in hostility to the United States, that I have not yielded a voluntary support to any pretended government, authority power or constitution within the United States hostile or inimical thereto -

And I do further swear (or affirm

that to the best of my knowledge & ability I will support & defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign & domestic; that I will bear true faith & allegiance to the same - that I take this Obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion & that I will well & faithfully discharge the duties of the Office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.'

In compliance therewith each Officer & Employee of this Bureau & the Officers of the army will at once take the oath required & forward it through the proper Channels to their Head Qrs - those now on duty in the Bureau who cannot take the oath prescribed are hereby relieved from duty -

By Order
J. W. Shaper
Asst Commissioner

Attest
Wm J Davis -
Brt Maj & Asst A.A.G.

Office of Ass't Com'r
Little Rock Ark
Oct 10th 1866

Dayton. Geo. W.
Chief Clerk

Transmits Par 3 S.O
86 & directs its enforce-
ment in said Dist.

Headquarters Department of Arkansas
Little Rock, Ark.
Office of Assistant Commissioner
Oct 10 1866

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR THE STATES OF MISSOURI, ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY.
Office of Assistant Commissioner,
Little Rock, Ark., Oct 10th 1866

Bvt Maj. Wm J. Dawes,
Capt Supt and Pro. Mag.
Price Bluff, Ark,

Major,

I have the honor to forward you copy of Pas. 3. S.O. 86. from these Hd Qrs.

You will see that the provisions of the same are at once carried into effect in Sub-districts, furnishing copies of the order to Supts under you, and relieve all those who cannot take the oath.

By order of
J. W. Sprague, Asst Com'r,
Geo E. Dayton,
Chief Clerk.

Office Supt R F & A L
De Grals Bluff Ark
Oct 18th 1866

Mills Hiram F.
2d Lt & Supt B R F & A L

States that he was
personally instructed by
Genl Sprague to forward
his reports to the Office
of Adjt Genl's direct. which
is the reason of his failing
to send them to the Genl
Supt Adjt Gen Dept

Office Supt. R. F. & A. S.
De Vals Bluff Ark Oct 10th 66

Maj Danes
Maj Genl Supt R. F. & A. S.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Maj

I have the
honor to inform you that
Genl Sprague told me personally
that I need not send any
reports through your office
but direct to DC Dis at Little
Rock, which is the cause of your
not receiving my reports

I am Major
Very Respectfully
Your Obdt Servt
Liam F Hills
2d Lt & Supt R. F. & A. S.

B. R. F. & A. L.
for Ins Orfice and Fee
Office of Genl Supt of Schools
Little Rock Ark
Oct 15th 1866

Colby U. S. M.
Genl Supt. of Schools
B R F & A L

Statistics & facts in
regard to freedmens
School with Suggestions
for certain improvements

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,

For Missouri, Arkansas and Indian Territory,

Office of Gen'l. Supt. of Schools.

Little Rock, Ark. Oct 15th 1866.

Bvt Major Wm J Dawes,
Supt. R. F. & A. L.,
Ark. River Dist.

Sir:

Yours communication of the 8th inst. asking to be furnished with information, - facts and suggestions in regard to Schools and Education generally in your district, is at hand. I am not informed of the extent of your district. Assuming that Pulaski & Jefferson counties are included therein, would state that in these counties a greater number of Schools have been in operation, and a greater amount of tuition paid by the freedmen than in any other district of equal area in the State. These Schools have in the main been successful. They have been well attended by the children

to every, to common in "white" Schools being quite unknown among the freedmen. The elements of knowledge only have thus far been taught, save that in this city two classes in grammar are lately reported. There is a class of pupils, but not a large one, that should go on with their Studies beyond the "common branches" Efforts are being made looking to the establishment of a graded School in this city this Autumn.

The teachers are not generally persons of the largest attainments but are quite devoted to their work - the intellectual and moral improvement of the people among whom they labor.

The plantation Schools in Jefferson Co. of which there were five reporting to this Office in June 1866, were I believe, uniformly successful. Arrangements have lately been made with the Am. Miss. Association to supply teachers in all cases where provision is made for the payment of wages and board of the teacher - the former at fifteen Dollars per month.

It is suggested

1. That the attention of local Supts be called to the provisions of Circular No. 23, Hd. Qrs. Asst. Com. Teachers should be qualified as therein stated without unnecessary delay. And
2. Employers should be encouraged to stipulate in future contracts for the establishment and maintenance of a School for their children wherever there are children enough in the neighborhood to make a School practicable.
3. The contract should provide for the prompt monthly payment of the teacher. This might be done by stipulating that either a Specific Sum or a certain per cent. of each months Wages should be retained by the employer for that object. (over)

I feel sure that if the Supts of freedmen would look after the School interests with the assiduity their importance demands, there might easily be twenty-five Schools established in Pulaski & Jefferson Counties by the first of January next.

(Respectfully) Yours,
Wm Colby

B. F. Smith
Supt Freedmen Schools
Office of Genl Superintendent
Little Rock
Oct 15th 1866

Colby Wm.
Genl Superintendent
Freedmen Schools

Statistics & facts in regard to the Public Schools of Pulaski Co. Ark. for certain months

Auburn Ark.
Oct 15 - 1866

Douglas A. A.

Declines appointment
as agent of Bureau -

Auburn Arkansas
Oct 18th 1864

Sir

Having been absent from home during nearly three days of the last week, (attending my wife's mother as asst. agt. Bureau of Freedmen & R.L.) it is just before me with due consideration for the honor, I respectfully beg leave to decline - I have already forwarded to you a petition from the leading citizens of our district for the appointment of Maj R. W. Harris (of Clermont) to the position you have tendered to me & cannot say to him if no other consideration would forbid my acceptance

Very Respectfully Yr
Obt. Sert.
A. O. Douglass

Office Supt B R F & L
Napoleon Ark
Oct 16 1866

Piedmont & C. 2d Sr V Rb
Supt B R F & L

Transmits Reports of
Persons & Articles. and
Accounts Current for the
Months of July. August &
September 1866 in Compli
ance with S.O. No. 58. dated
Office of Asst Com'r Little
Rock Ark July 5th 1866

Office Supt Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Napoleon Ark Oct 11th 1866

Bvt Maj H. J. Dawes
Com Supt Ark River Dist
Pine Bluff Ark.

Maj:-

I have the honor to enclose copies of returns from this Office for the months of July - August and September 1866. in compliance with S. O. No 58 Office Asst Commissioner Little Rock, July 5th 1866.

I have the honor to be Maj
Very Respectfully
Your Obdt Servt

J. C. Parkinson
2 Lieut 9th U.S.C.C. and
Supt Bureau R. F. and A. L.

S. 116 (DA) 1866.

Little Rock Ark. Oct. 15. 1866.
Oct 16–

Sprague J. W.
Asst. Com'r Bureau R. F. & A. L.
for Mo. & Ark.

Transmits for approval requisition made by Lieut. S. Geissreiter, Supt. at Pine Bluff, for quartermaster's property and Camp & Garrison Equipage, to be used on Refugee & Freedmen's hospitals at Pine Bluff.

3 Enclosures.

Received D. A. October 15. 1866

E. B. 4: 226 (DA) 1866

Headquarters Dept. of the Arkansas.
Little Rock. Ark. Oct. 16th 1866.

Respectfully returned to General J. W. Sprague, Assistant Commissioner Bureau R. F. & A. L.

Requisitions for Quarter Masters Stores should be made separate from those for Camp and Garrison Equipage. – Duplicate Copies is all that is required.

By command of
Bvt. Major General C. C. Ord:
O. D. Greene
Asst. Adjt. Genl.

E 216

Red Pine Bluff Oct 20
Recd Req sent Oct 22.

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR THE STATES OF MISSOURI, ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY.
Office of Assistant Commissioner,
Little Rock, Ark., Oct 15th 1866

Maj. O. D. Greene,
Asst Adjt Genl,
Dept of the Arkansas,

Major,

I have the honor to forward herewith for approval Requisitions for property for use of the Bureau at Pine Bluff, Ark.

Very Respectfully,
Your Obt Servt

D W Sprague
Asst Commissioner.

Office Genl Supt
Ark River Dist
Pine Bluff Ark Oct 20/66

Dawes Wm.
Capt 6th U.S. Col'd Inf

asks leave to withdr
aw application to hire
an Orderly as none is
needed on account of
Change in office
Ltr. dec 2 BRWFG

Bureau R. F. & L.
Ms. Ark & Ind Dep
Little Rock Ark Oct 20/66

Respectfully returned
The application named
within had already been
returned with the follow-
ing endorsement:—
"Respectfully returned.
The Asst Commr. suggests
that if the Offices of Genl
and Dist Supt are consolidated
as suggested in letter of Oct 4,
but one Orderly will be
required."
By Order of
W. Sprague Asst Comm
Geo E Dayton
Chief Clerk
E. 312.

Bureau, Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands,
Arkansas River District.

Pine Bluff Oct 9th 1866.

Sir

In consequence of changes made in this office upon the suggestions of Maj General Sprague asst Comm I have the honor respectfully to ask leave to withdraw my application for authority to hire an Orderly of date Oct 5th inst as I do not need one

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Wm. J. Dames.
Bvt Maj & Asst Supt
Ark River Dist

Lt Col D. H. Williams
A A Genl
B. R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark

Report of Labors

for

the Month of October 1864

By

Hiram F Mills

2d Lt & Supt R F Vc

Seneca Bluff Ark

Office Supt. R. F. & A. L.
DeVals Bluff Ark Oct 31, 1866

Capt D. A. Williams
A. A. G. B. R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark

Captain

I have the honor to forward herewith my report of labors as Supt of R. F. & A. L. for the counties of Monroe and Prairie for the Month ending Oct 31st 1866

My labors during the month have been confined almost exclusively to the settlement of difficulties between Freedmen and their employers and between Freedmen themselves. which are of so common occurrence that I will not mention any of that nature

One case that has come before me during the month I wish to relate. which will show the true disposition of the white people in general of this county towards the Freedmen. Two days ago six colored men appeared at my office and complained that they had been badly treated by some white men one night while they were holding a prayer meeting.

The circumstances from all that I can learn are as follows. On the night of Oct 29th while these colored men in question with some others were holding

a prayer meeting. Six white men came
into the house with revolvers cocked, took
the men out and after tieing them securely
whipped them severely and then took them
all to their houses and made them show
them their guns. which they took from them
saying at the time that they had come
from De Vols Bluff on this errand to do as they
were doing. they also took everything of value
that the men had in their houses. keeping
the men tied while they were committing
their depredations. the negroes did not know
but one of the party and the last I call him
Coplain. said Coplain trying to keep at
a respectable distance all the time to keep
the negroes from recognizing him but
gave orders to the other men how to proceed
Two days after this occured these men came
to my office and complained about the
matter. I have been waiting to find out more
about the matter. and who the parties were
and to see wether the civil authorities would
take any action in the case. before I arrest the
men, Many such cases occur throughout
the country and it is almost impossible to
find out the guilty parties, and if discovered
and the case brough before the civil authorities
and the offenders are prosecuted the civil
authorities will not enforce the law in
three cases out of five that occur. only in
towns where the Military is present or near
which has a great influence over their actions
In some neighborhoods it seemes as though there

exists a fixed determination on the part of the white people not to let the negro be anything or have anything as long as they can throw a stumbling block in his way. And a close observer can soon discover where such a feeling exists. Even the clerk received freedmen against the Freedmen which is too bitter to be entirely hidden although they may be ever so careful while in conversation with Civil and Military Officers Such classes scoff at the idea of the negro becoming a land holder and of their ever becoming an intelligent people or even of their obtaining a common education. But this class are the most ignorant of the whole country. few if any of them knowing how to spell or write their names correctly

The case that I have related above has been one of the most interesting that has occured during the month and is a fair sample of the disposition ~~of the~~ and feeling of the people of this country towarded the Freedmen. and to let such a case pass into the hands of the civil authorities away from a Military post where the Agent of the Bureau cannot attend the trial is a Freedmen worse than a Farce and I would respectfully call your attention to the nature of the case

During the month I have issued provisions to whites, have had no before in progress for Freedmen. have made no Indentures of Apprentices to which

Report of Labors

for

the Month of October 1864

By

Abram E Wells

2d Lt & Asst R. T. M.

Devals Bluff Ark

R C

Office Supt B. R. F. & A. L.
Napoleon Arkansas
" Nov 2nd 1866

Predmore J. C.
2nd Lieut & Supt
B. R. F. and A. L.

Encloses copies of Account current and Report of "Persons and articles" for Oct 1866.

Office Supt R.F. & A.Le.
Napoleon Ark
Nov 2nd 1866.

Bvt. Maj Genl. J. Dawes.
Genl. Supt Ark River Distr
Bureau R.F. and A.Le.

Maj:-

I have the honor to enclose herewith copies of my Account Current. and Report of Persons and Articles employed and hired. for the month of October 1866.-

I have the honor to be Maj'
Very Respectfully
Your Obedt Servant
J. C. Pudmore
2nd Lieut 9th U.S.Cle
and Supt R.F. and A.Le

Office Supt B R & L
Napoleon Ark
Oct 17th 1866

Fredmont & C 2nd Lt 8th Inf
Supt B R & L

Narrative report to
Genl E O C Ord. and
copy furnished for the
information of Bvt Maj
W. J. Dames

Pine Bluff.

Office Supt B. of R. F. & C. A. L.
Napoleon Arkansas.
November 14th 1866.

Bvt Maj Genl. C. O. C. Ord.
Asst Commissioner Bureau.
R. F. & A. L. Little Rock Ark.

Genl:—

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Circular letter dated. Office of Asst Commissioner Little Rock Ark Oct 31st 1866. and make the following statement in compliance with the same.—

This office was not established until in July 1866. and the records for the year are thereby very incomplete. most of the contracts having been made and approved at other offices before that time.

My estimate of the Freedmen working in this county is about 2500 of which number I should judge 2000 were under contracts approved by Agents of the Bureau at Memphis Helena. Pine Bluff. Duvalls Bluff & Monticello

& C. I would have about 300 who are working under verbal or written agreements without the approval of said agents.

As far as I can learn with three exceptions. where contracts were made and approved by the agents of the Bureau there is a disposition shown by both the employer and employee to be bound by it. but the cause, in my opinion, to a great extent is the presence of an agent of the Bureau acting as a restraint on both parties.

The exceptions mentioned above in two cases are where Freedmen have been working for an interest in the crop, and after working half the season have voluntarily left it and went to other places. the other is a case in which a Freedmen is working the same way and claims to have been driven from the place by violence. but the matter has not yet been investigated.

There has been more cases of bad faith on the part of Freedmen who were employed by verbal agreements. in a number of instances (perhaps 20) the employer in their anxiety to retain the labor, or from some other cause, have advanced in money and clothes more than was due for labor and the Freedmen have left and gone to some other county.

I have the honor to be Genl
Very Respectfully
Your Obedt Servt
J. C. Pudmore
2nd Lieut 9th U.S.C.
and Supt R.F. & A.L.

Bureau R. F. & L.
Office Gen'l Supt.
Pine Bluff Nov 9. 66
Nov 14/66

Dawes. M. J. Bt Maj'r
Genl Supt 8th Reb Dist -

Transmits propositions of J. L.
Billinge to prepare claims for
Freedmen, & states that he is
unable to do it with the help
he has, & asks authority to
contract with Mr Billinge -
Dec 29 Vol 2. 66.

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3 Enclosures.

Nov



Bureau, Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands,
Arkansas River District.

Pine Bluff Ark Nov 10th 1866.

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith a communication from S J Billings Esqr. on the subject of Bounties &c for discharged Freedmen -

His letter was prepared at my request, that I might submit it to the proper authority, together with a request that I might be allowed to contract with Mr Billings to prepare the claims referred to by him - I find discharge papers in this office to the number of 101 - The officer who has had charge of this branch, has been absent since I have been on duty here: and I am informed by a private letter from him just received, is mustered out of the service -

I have but one clerk to aid me in the discharge of my duties of Genl Supt of Arkansas River District: And acting Local Supt of Jefferson County - It is utterly impossible for us to prepare and forward these claims, especially at this season of the year, when old contracts are to be settled up, and new ones approved - Freedmen are

becoming uneasy as Cotton is being shipped.
for fear they will lose their pay. and the ut-
most vigilance is necessary on our part to
prevent this on the one hand. and allay their
fears and keep them at their work according
to their contract on the other—

Mr Billings is an Attorney here well
versed in preparing these claims - He was a
private in my regiment. and afterwards promoted.
and mustered out as Captain. and every way
qualified to do this work - He will do it cheaper
to the government. and better than it can
be done in any other way that I know of -

I have therefore the honor respectfully to
request that the second proposition be accepted,
where he proposes to furnish blanks. pay the
postage. and prepare the claims for one dollar each
the applicant paying for the certificate as provided.
in Circular letter of March 31st 1866 -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servant
Wm J. Dawes.
Bvt Maj. Genl Supt
Ark. Rivers District

Bvt Maj John Tyler A.A.A.G
Bureau R & F A L
Little Rock Ark

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
For Ark. & Ind. Ter.
Little Rock Ark
Nov 14th 1866

Respectfully returned to Bt Maj Wm G Davies, Capt & A.A.G. Genl Supt &c.

There is no authority for the employment of Mr Billings in the capacity indicated. It is probable, from recent instructions received from Washington that it will be necessary for the colored soldier to furnish proof of freedom before April 19th 1861, in order to be entitled to the benefit of the Joint Resolutions of June 15th and July 26th 1866. If this has to be done, and instructions are expected very soon there will not be a very large number of bounty

claims under either the "Equalization Act" or said Resolutions, in this State as claims are for the present to be taken as under the instructions in letter from this office of the 4th inst, there are but few that can now be properly received at your office. Should the work of preparing claims at your office become so extensive the employment of a clerk, one who could attend to this work, would be authorized.

By command of
Bt Maj Genl Ord
Asst Comm'r
John Taylor
Capt & A.A.C. Bt Maj - Tols
A.A. Asst.

335

Pine Bluff Ark
Nov 9th 1866

Billings. L. J.

Proposals for preparing claims for back pay & bounty for Soldiers.

P.A.L. MO. ARK

Pine Bluff Arkansas
November 9th 1866.

Maj. Dawes:

Dear Sir:

I have Examined the discharge papers, of Colored Soldiers, that you handed me, and find that there are One hundred and Six of them.

In Eighty of the Cases two Applications will be required - Enclosed please find prescribed forms. -

I will make out and perfect the Applications in the above Cases for the following figures Viz:

Eighty Cases, two Applications, pay for the five Certificates the blanks and postage for $2,93 Ea = $234,40

Twenty six Cases two Certificates blanks and postage $1,13 ea 29.38

$263.78

or

If the Government or applicant will pay for the Certificates for the whole 106- $106,00

Or if the Government or Applicant will pay all Expense for certificate blanks and postage $90.00

The men are probably scattered all over the County, and the above proposition is made with the express understanding that you will assist me in every way possible to get the men here when their presence is required.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
S. J. Billings

Copy

Pine Bluff Ark
Nov 9. 1866

Billings. L. J.

. Proposals for preparing
Claims for bounty &
back pay -

Pine Bluff Arkansas
Nov 9th 1864

Maj Dawes

Dear Sir

I have examined the discharge papers of Colored Soldiers that you handed me, and find that there are one hundred and six of them -

In eighty of the cases, two applications will be required - Inclosed please find prescribed forms -

I will make out and forfeit the applications in the above cases for the following figures viz -

~~Eighty Applications~~

Pay for the five Certificates, the blanks and postage for $2.93 a $234.40

Twenty six cases two Certificates blanks and postage $1.38 a 29.38

$263.78

Or

If the government or applicant will pay for the Certificates for the

Table 106 - $106,00
Or if the government or applicant will pay all expenses for certificates. blanks, and postage - $90,00

The men are probably scattered all over the County, and the above proposition is made with the express understanding that you will assist me in every way possible to get the men here when their presence is required.

Very Respectfully
Your obt Servant
(Signed) D J Billings

Bureau R.F. & L.
Little Rock Ark
Nov 14th 1866

Tyler, John, A.A.A.G.

In regard to the appointment of Maj Wm Douglass of Auburn agent of the Bureau to sell cotton to pay Freedmen on Dr Yorks plantation -

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Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR MISSOURI, ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY.
CLAIM DIVISION.

Little Rock, Ark., Nov 14th 1866

Brvt Maj Wm J Dawes,
Genl Supt &c,
Pine Bluff, Ark,

Major,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of copy of your letter of the 10th inst to Maj. Wm Douglass, Auburn, Ark, appointing him an agent of this Bureau for the purpose of selling a crop of cotton on Dr Gore's plantation and to dispose of the proceeds by settling the accounts of the freedmen on that plantation and by liquidating an advance of three thousand dollars obtained by Dr Gore in New Orleans. In reply I am directed by the Asst Comr to confirm the telegraphic instructions of this date directing you to revoke the appointment of Wm Douglass as an agent of this Bureau, that appointment

and the instructions under it being disapproved at this office. The Dist Com's desires that you make full report of the circumstances of this case and in the future to await instructions before exercising authority to such an extent.

I am very respectfully,
Your Obt Servt
John Taylor.
Capt U.S.V.C. Bvt Maj Vol.
A.A.A. Genl,

Auburn Landing
Ark
Nov 15. 1866.

Capt Williams.

Dr Sir. Hearing that you were not at court at Mt Hit and fearing that you would not be here to morrow I send the bearer up to you to night to impress upon you the necessity of being here to morrow (Friday) While I was at Pine Bluff. Dr Gore went to Mt Hit and got very erroneous & impressions relations concerning my rights here from his attorney Halliburton & somebody else. Part of the instructions were to take charge of stock implements cotton in fact every thing

Do not to regard my assumed authority to ship
cotton at his discretion & pre mill-
Price now wants to ship the cotton by the Judge
Fletcher boat next Saturday. Can ill manage
to see to my business as I should like read
a bill to day- I fear mill- the combination
& he has & my illness he will take the advantage
There are about 50 bales baled out- & I think
the premium ought to be secured at least.
Do not let a third party ship for us both
in fact want to drive me away-
I do not [illegible] get an order from the
Bureau to [illegible] seize all the cotton until the
premium pay is secure- for I am responsible to them
for their pay & don't fail to come to morrow
Yours &c W Billingsley

Mr Hawkins
Clerk
Tuesday

Jan 19. 1866.

The amount necessary to pay the Freedmen on River View Plantation Ark Co Ark cultivated by Jno & Jarrett to the 1st of Jan 1867. is as near as I can estimate $2,070.00

L H Billingsley. Manager
of Plantation & Agent K Jarrett

U. S. Military Telegraph.

Nov 14 1866

By Telegraph from Little Rock 14 1866

To Maj Wm J. Davis

Rec'd the

appointment of Wm

Douglass of Auburn as Agent

of this Bureau. Further

instructions will be written

by Command

of Maj Genl Ord

John Eyler

A.A.G.

24 W 240 pd

Little Rock
Mar 14: 1866

Colby Wm M
Supt Schools

In regard to School in
Pine Bluff

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,

For Missouri, Arkansas and Indian Territory,

(Unofficial)

Office of Gen'l. Supt. of Schools.

Little Rock, Ark. Nov. 14, 1866.

Wm J. Daws,

Pine Bluff, Ark,

Mey ~~Dear~~ Sir:

Your letter of the 11th, this moment recd, contains a statement of facts that quite disappoints and surprises me. I recd the letter of Lyman (or Lyman) and wrote him on the 8th - he will please allow you to see that letter. In my interview with Mr. Shipherd I urged the importance of sending a first class man teacher to Pine Bluff - one of talent and force - who would by tact, talent and energy, give shape to the entire School interests of the place. If he has sent one who is willing to take a subordinate position under a second or third rate and unrecognized teacher, I am sorry, and he will be: But to the point. It is

probably not best to make a sudden and entire change of base although the position may not be what we desire. I know that Mr. Shepherd is in correspondence with Capt. M. and it may be he approves of his course. I will communicate with ~~him~~ Secy Shepherd.

As to your authority in the matter, I understand you have the same control over the Schools, in the absence of a regularly appointed Supt of Schools, that you have over other matters pertaining to freedmen, and in the absence of instructions from higher authority, you will please act as Supt of Schs in your district, and while you endeavor to harmonize conflicting interests, material aid is to be given only to those teachers who may be recognized by the Bureau. All teachers must report by the first of each month to you. In the package of blanks sent you you will find some for the Supt. I desire accuracy in the reports and promptness in sending them. Teachers should come to time although the calendar month may end in the middle of a week. Until I have written as explicitly as I can at this time. Possibly I can come down if I do not go to Helena this month. Will you be in town? I thank you for the interest you have already taken in the Schools. On the return of Gen. Ord I shall ask him to make each Supt. of freedmen also School Supt. — in my opinion they are so without instructions, but it does not seem to be understood.

The "Friends" have arrived here and are getting to work.

Very truly,
Wm M Colby

Bureau of R.F. & A.L.
Office Supt Napoleon Ark.
Nov 19th 1866.

Predmore, J. C.
2nd Lieut & Supt
B. R.F. & A.L.

Encloses Duplicate
receipts of Quartermaster
stores.

Bureau R. F. and A. L.
Office Supt Napoleon Ark.
November 19th 1866

Bvt Maj. W. G. Dawes
Genl Supt Ark River Dist
Pine Bluff Ark.

Maj:-

I have the honor to enclose herewith receipts in duplicate for one (1) Desk and (2) two Office Chairs in good order.

I have the honor to be Maj.
Very Respectfully
Your Obdt Servt
S. C. Pridmore
2nd Lieut 9th U. S. C. L.
and Supt - B. of R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
for Ins Ark & Ind Ty.
Office of Gen Supt of
Schools
Little Rock Ark Nov 19, 6

Colby W. M.
Gen Supt Freedmen Schools
for Ark

Requests Money Draws to
secure by rent or otherwise
a Suitable building for a
School House in Pine
Bluff for Chase of Mrs
Lyman, in which to
open a School for freedmen
Amount not to exceed $20. per mo

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,

For Missouri, Arkansas and Indian Territory,

Office of Gen'l. Supt. of Schools.

Little Rock, Ark. Nov. 19, 1866.

Major Wm J. Davis,
Gen Supt Ref. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff, Ark

Dear Sir: Will you please secure by rent or otherwise a suitable School building for the use of Mrs. Lyman & colleague in which to open a School for freedmen. Let the rent not exceed $30.00 per mo. and it will be paid out of appropriation by Congress "for rent and repairs of School houses". Such is the decision to-day by Adjt. Gen. Tyler. Furnish stove also for the same.

I have the honor to be

Very Respectfully
Your obedient Servt.
W M Colby
Genl Supt Fr Schls for Ark.

B R F & A. S.

Little Rock Ark

Nov 19th 1866

Colby W. Jn.

In regard to School Matters in General.

Little Rock, Nov. 19, 1866.

Friend Dawes:

I presume the enclosed letter needs no explanation. I hope you will be able to set them going at once. Will you enquire into the condition of the Methodist "Chapel"? I am told it is to be sold. If the Freedmen own or will buy the ground on which it stands and pay something toward the building, I think I can get an appropriation to buy it for school purposes. In renting, it is very desirable to keep below the sum named, but the building should be secured at all events. In consideration of having all the teachers we want from the Am. M. A. I feel under obligation to extend to them all the aid we can, but not to the exclusion of all others.

Truly &c

W. M. Colby

Pine Bluff ark
Nov 17th 1866
Nov 21- 66

Dawes Bt Maj Wm J
Capt A.D.C
Genl Supt &c

Requests information in regard to the entry of lands for Homesteads by freedmen.

D. 47. Vol 2. 66.

ADJ. GEN'L. MO. A.R. NOV 21 1866 U.S.

HEAD QUARTERS, BUREAU OF

efugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,

For the ~~State of Missouri and~~ Arkansas. 4th Dist Ga

Little Rock ark ~~St. Louis Mo.~~ Nov 21 1866

Respectfully referred to
W. W. Granges, Surveyor &c
for report by letter as
to the question presented
by Maj Dawes. This to
be returned with
report.

By command of
Bt. Maj Genl Ord
asst Com'g

John Tyler
Capt. U.S.A. Bt. Maj'r &c
A.A.A.Genl

E. 34 3.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Ark & 2nd Dist Ga.
Little Rock Ark
Nov 21st 1866.

Respectfully returned to Bt Maj W. J. Dawes Genl Supt &c and attention called to the enclosed report of Dr W. W. Granges, Surveyor &c.

By command of
Bt Maj Genl Ord,
Asst Com'g

John Tyler
Capt U.S.A. Bt Maj &c
A.A.A. Genl

E. 34 3

Surveyors Office, B. R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock, Ark.
Nov 21st 1866.

Major:

In reply to Major Dawes communication of Nov 17 which you have this day referred to me for information concerning the entry of Homestead Lands by Soldiers, I would say that there are considerable quantities of Government Land subject to such entry in Pulaski, Jefferson, & Prairie Counties, and a very large amount in the two Northern tiers of Counties in this State. Within six miles of the line of the Cairo and Fulton R.R. and the Memphis & Little Rock, & Fort Smith R.R.s but forty acres can be entered in any one Homestead - Outside of these limits Eighty acres can be taken up. The surveying party of which Maj Dawes speaks, not being yet organized, I can only execute surveys when a party of those desiring homesteads are ready to go along to act as Chainmen. Should any number of Freedmen at Pine Bluff choose to organize a party of

not less than five or six, who would go into the woods prepared to "camp out" and help survey. I will accompany them to select & survey the land, unless at the time on other duty by Gen Ords order.
In case they should do this their best plan would be to raise a team & come here with blankets, axes & provisions enough to spend a week in the field, and inform me by letter or Telegraph a day or two in advance of their coming. The parties who desired to enter homesteads need not all come, but five or six, enough to do the work, and they could select for the rest, the others contributing to the expence. When the lands are selected, the further steps necessary for the parties to take are to make affidavit each that he or she is 21 years of age or the head of a family, and a citizen of the U.S. who has not borne arms against the Govt or knowingly & voluntarily aided or assisted its enemies - that the land is for their own use & benefit only, & not for that of any other person directly or indirectly and for actual settlement - and to take the oath. This oath can be taken here, before the Register or Receiver of the Land Office, or can be taken elsewhere before a Notary Public or Clerk of any Court of Record & in the latter case can be sent by mail with the fee ($2.00) for each entry accompanying.
On taking this oath & paying the two dollars a Receipt is issued to the party for the particular tract of land selected. He is expected or required to settle on it within six months and at the end of five years, on oath or proof of continued occupation & cultivation, and payment of five dollars more a Patent is issued for the land and the title is complete - B. if after two years occupation the party prefers, he can commute, i.e. pay the Government price for the land and complete title at once - Very Respy

Your obt Servt

Major John Taylor
A.A.A. Gen
B.R. Va. & L.

W.W. Granger
Special Asst Surveyor &
B.R. Va. & L.

Pine Bluff Ark
Nov 17th 1866.

Nov 24—

Dawes Bt Maj Wm G
Capt 2 Bn 6 U.S.C.
Genl Instrc

Requests that some
Govt buildings at Pine
Bluff be assigned for
School purposes and
asks authority to make
necessary repairs and
suitably the schools with
wood.

Hd Qrs Dept of Ark
Little Rock Ark
Nov 24th 1866.

Respectfully returned.
The desire to have suitable
Govt buildings at Pine
Bluff for School purposes
is approved and to obtain
them, Maj Dawes will please
make the selections and
report what buildings are
desirable for this purpose.
Whereupon efforts will be
made with the Dept Comdr
to have them turned over.

By command of
Bt Maj Genl Ord
Asst Comdr

John Tyler
Capt 2 U.S.C. Bt Maj & A
A A A Genl

C.E. 346

Office of Genl Supt.
of Schools for Ark.
Little Rock, Ark.
November 21st 1866.

Respectfully forwarded
to Bt Maj. John Tyler
A A A Genl Bureau of
R. F. & A. L. with the
request that any un-
occupied Government
buildings which the
Supt. may select be
turned over to the Bureau
for School purposes.

It is believed the ap-
propriation by Congress
"for rent and repairs of
School houses" renders
any action relative to
repairs unnecessary.

W M Colby
Genl Supt of Schs, Ark.

C. 346

Ex. 44. Vol 2. 66.

R.F. & A.L. MO. & A.R.
NOV 23 1866
R.F. & A.L. LITTLE ROCK

BUREAU, REFUGEES, FREEDMEN & ABANDONED LANDS,

Office Gen'l Sup't & Provost Marshal,

ARKANSAS RIVER DISTRICT.

Pine Bluff, Ark. Nov 17 **1866**

Sir

I have the honor to request that such buildings belonging to the Govt at the camp in this City as may be adapted to the purpose, may be assigned for the use of the schools for Freedmen under the charge of the Bureau - Good accomodations may be thus obtained - Slight repairs will be required by way of replacing broken windows, leaky roofs, and for benches &c -

Authority to make these repairs is respectfully requested - Authority to supply wood for fires until the schools become self supporting is respectfully requested -

I shall be absent from my office on duty in Arkansas County for the ensuing three or four days -

Very respectfully

Your obt Servt

W. J. Davies.

Bvt Maj Genl Supt

Ark River District

Wm M Colby Esq

Genl Supt of Schools

Bureau R F & A L

Little Rock Ark

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark
Nov 26th 1866

Lyter. Maj. John. A.A.G.

Receiving instructions in the matter of Appointment of Jno Douglas to sell Cotton and directing instructions to him be returned if desired by the parties.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark
Nov 26th 1866

Lyle. Maj John. A. A. A. G.

Revoking instructions in the matter of Appointment of Jno Douglas to sell Cotton and directing instructions to him be released if desired by the parties -

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR ~~MISSOURI~~, ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY.
~~CLAIM DIVISION.~~

Little Rock, Ark., Nov. 26th 1866.

Bvt Maj. Wm J. Dawes,
Asst Supt &c
Pine Bluff, Ark,

Major,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 22nd inst, relative to the case in which Mr Douglass of Auburn was appointed an agent of this Bureau. I am directed by the Asst Com'r to inform you that it appears that you did the best you could under the circumstances and that if all the parties interested in this case are still desirous of carrying out the plan adopted, your instructions to Mr Douglass may be reissued. In case this is done copy of your report above referred to, together with this letter, should be filed with your letter of appoint-

ment and instructions to Wm Douglass
as explanatory of the appointments

I am very respectfully,
Your Obt Servt.

John Tyler
Capt 2 R. 6. B'd May 20th.
A.A. Genl.

Brunn Hd. Qrs. 4th D.
Little Rock Ark
Nov 26th 1864

Tyler Maj John A.A.G.

Gives permission to go to
Little Rock —

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,

FOR ~~MISSOURI~~, ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY.

~~CLAIM DIVISION~~.

Little Rock, Ark., Nov 26th 1866

Bt Maj Wm J. Dawes,
Asst Supt &c,
Pine Bluff, Ark,

Major,

I am directed by the Asst Com'r in reply to your request of the 22nd inst. for orders to go to Little Rock, to grant you authority to do so, and to state that if the business is in his opinion of sufficient importance, orders will be issued to cover the journey.

I am very respectfully,
Your Ob't Serv't,

John Tyler
Capt & A.A.G. Bt Maj & Asst
A.A.A.Gen'l

Bureau R. Frdt
Little Rock Ark
Dec 12 - 1866

Tyler Maj John A.A.A.G.

States that action in
case of Martha Jane &
David Stevenson is approved

December -

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,
Office of Assistant Commissioner,

Little Rock, Ark., Dec 12th 1866

Bt Maj. Wm J Dawes,
Genl. Supt, &c.
Pine Bluff, Ark,

Major,

I have the honor to inform you that your communication of the 8th inst. transmitting papers in the case of Martha Jane, freedwoman, vs Daniel Stevenson, and reporting your action thereon, has been laid before the Asst Com'rs and that the action taken meets with his entire approval.

I am very respectfully,
Your Obt Servt,

John Tyler
Capt 2 U.S.C. Bt Maj Vol.
A. A. A. Genl.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark
Dec 13th 1866

Page Col. Henry A. A. G. M.

Authorizes hiring Quarters
for Dr. J. M. Quinn acting
U.S.A.

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR THE STATES OF MISSOURI AND ARKANSAS.
QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE,

Little Rock, Ark., Dec 15 1866

Major H. J. Dances.
Supt A F and A L.
Pine Bluff ark.

Sir.

You are hereby authorized to hire Quarters at a rate, as low as practicable, for the use of Dr J. H Munn asst Surg. of this Bureau and report the same on Form No 7. nine vouchers which will be fair on presentation at this office.

I am very respectfully
your obedt svnt.
H Clay Page
Lt & A Q M

Bureau R. Fr. & L.
Little Rock Ark
Dec 13. 1866

Tyler Maj John a.a.a.g.

Desires to be informed by telegraph when last Barker arrives at Monticello -

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,
Office of Assistant Commissioner,

Little Rock, Ark., Dec 13th 1866.

Bt Maj. Wm J. Dawes, V.R.C.
Genl Supt,
Pine Bluff, Ark.

Major.

I have the honor to inform you that upon the receipt of a communication from Capt Barker reporting that he has returned to Monticello (he is now supposed to be absent inspecting in Ashley County) the Asst Comr directs that you report the fact to this office by telegraph.

I am very respectfully,
Your Obt Servt.

John Eyle
Capt. V.R.C. Bt Maj: Pol.
A.A.A.G.

A. A. Gn Dept of Ark
Little Rock Ark
Dec 14th 1864

Green C. D. A. A. Gen't

Directs May Montgomery
Q. M. or Master to turn over
to May Davis one Mess House
and 3500 feet of lumber for
school purposes for freedmen,
Also directs 500 feet of lumber
to be turned over for the use
of Hospt for freedmen

Head Quarters Department of Arkansas,

OFFICE CHIEF QUARTERMASTER,

Little Rock, Ark. Dec 14th 1866.

Major A. Montgomery
Chf. Quartermaster Dept of Ark's
Major.

The General Com.
manding directs me to instruct you to turn
over to Brt Major W. J. Dawes U. S. R. C. Superintendant of Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen
and Abandoned Lands at Pine Bluff
Arkansas, a mess House located at that place,
together with 3500 feet of Lumber and nails,
hinges, sashes, glass etc. to be taken from the
corral there and to be used in repair of the
Mess-house which will be used hereafter as
a school house for Freedmen's children etc.
He further directs you to turn over to Major
Dawes 500 feet of Lumber to be taken from
the same corral, and to be used by him

in repair of Refugee and Freedmen's Hospital
at Pine Bluff

Sam'l Major
Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
(signed) C. D. Greene
Asst. Adjt. General

A true copy
A. Baumgarten
Lt Col & Deputy Q. M. Gen. U. S. A.

Pine Bluff ark
25-Dec-1866.

Summs J. A. Dec 19. 66
endorsement

States that patients in
Hospital are suffering
for want of clothing &
requests that a supply
may be sent for issue.
to them.

J. H. Volume 2 1663

Respectfully referred to Bvt
Major John Tyler A.A.A.G.
with the request that the
Supt at Pine Bluff be
directed to make requisition
for such clothing as may
be required for the destitute
Freedmen at Pine Bluff

Henry M. Lilley
Asst Surg U.S.V.
Surg in Chief
Dist of Little Rock and Dep

Office of Surg in Chief
Dist. of Little Rock
Dec. 19th 1866

E 365-6

Bureau of R. F. & A. L.
Office of Asst Comm
Little Rock Dec 19/66

Respectfully referred to
Bvt Maj Dawes Genl
Supt. Pine Bluff.
who will make requisition
for a supply of clothing
for issue to refugees
and Freedmen both
in and Hospital and
in this District at
large.

By command of
Bvt Maj Genl Howard

John Tyler
A.A.G.

E 365-6.

Refugee & Freedmen's Hospital
Pine Bluff Ark
December 14th 1866

Sir

I have the honor to report that many of the patients in this Hospital are suffering for the want of Clothing. I request that you furnish six (6) Males & Eight (8) Females with Clothing.

If the female Clothing is not on hand and you could send me a sufficient lot of Male Clothing it might be exchanged for female Clothing.

Verry Respectfully
Your Obdt Servt
J. W. Dawson
A. A. Surg U.S.A
in Cy Hospital

(Copied) Surg Ho. C. H. Lilly U.S.A
Surg in Chief
Dist Ark & Ind Ter

Bureau R. F. & A. L.

Little Rock Ark

Dec. 27th 1866

Tyler Maj. John A.A.G.

Directs that copies of Circular No 30 & 32 be furnished to the Judges & Justices of this District

All Orders sent are distributed Dec 30th & checked on the list — Circular Letter

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,
Office of Assistant Commissioner,

Little Rock, Ark., Dec 27th 1866

Circular Letter

Sir.

The Asst Comr directs that copies of Circulars Nos 30 and 32 Current Series be furnished to the Judges and Justices of the Peace in your District for their information. A sufficient number will be furnished for this purpose

I am very respectfully
Your Obt Servt

John Eyler
Capt 17 C & 13th May Inf
C. A. A. G.

Fr.
Bt Maj Wm J Davies,
Genl Supt &c
Pine Bluff Ark

Circular Letter

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark
Dec 20th 1865

Tyler Maj Jetm. a.a.a.g.

Authority to purchase Desk
Chairs & other furniture for
use in Office -

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,
Office of Assistant Commissioner,

Little Rock, Ark., Dec 20th 1866

Circular Letter.

Sir,

By direction of the Ass't Commissioner, I have the honor to authorize you and the officers and Agents under your orders to make purchases of a desk, chairs and other office furniture necessary to the proper conduct of the business of the offices. The attention of civilian Superintendents acting under this authority is invited to circular No 31 dated at this office the 17th inst.

I am very respectfully
Your Obt. Servt

John Eyler
Capt 16th U.S. Bt Maj' Vols
A.A.A.Genl,

To,
Bt Maj. Wm J Dawes,
Genl Supt.
Pine Bluff, Ark,

Asst Comm'r Office
Little Rock Ark.
Decbr 27. 1866.

Circular Letter

Copy

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, & Abandoned Lands
For Arkansas and Indian Territory
Office of Assistant Commissioner
Little Rock Ark. Dec 27th 1866

Circular Letter

Sir:

Upon an examination of the rolls of the regiments of colored troops mustered out in this Department, it is found that the word "slave" appears opposite the name of each man of the 54th & 63rd Regiments U.S.C.T. Inf. and the 4th Regiment U.S.C. Artillery (Heavy). Therefore claims will not be taken for Bounty on account of discharged soldiers of these Regiments under the Joint Resolutions of Congress of July 28th 1866 (Equalization Act) except the applicant shall furnish satisfactory proof that the person on whose account the claim is made was free on or before April 19th 1861

I am very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
(Signed) John Tyler
Bvt Major Capt V.R.C.
A.A.A. General

To Bvt Lt. Col. W. J. Davies
Asst Supt Pine Bluff
Ark.

A True copy
W. J. Davies
Lt & Asst Supt &c

Circular Letter

Hd. Qrs. Dept of Ark.
Little Rock Ark.
Dec 16th 1866

Gen. O. D. Mas. &c. Gen'l

States that Military Commanders receiving application for a Military force to aid in the arrest of citizens who have been guilty of murder, robbery &c. upon freedmen or families will furnish the necessary force upon affidavits of credible witnesses.

Copy all these for Freedmens Bureau —

Hd Qrs. Dept of the Arkansas
Little Rock, Ark, Dec. 16. 1866.

Circular Letter.

To. _____

Commanding Officer
Post of _____

Military Commanders in this Department, receiving applications for a Military force to aid in the arrest of citizens, who have been guilty of murder, robbery, aggravated assault, rape or arson upon freedmen, freedwomen or their families, will furnish the necessary force to make the arrest, provided the application is accompanied with copies of affidavits of credible witnesses to the crime, and the statement of the superintendent of freedmen, that he has brought the case to the notice of the proper civil authorities of the State and they have failed or refused to take cognizance thereof.

The troops furnished will return to

their proper command, as soon as the arrests have been made.

I am Sir,

Very respectfully,

Your Obt Servt.

(Sgd) O. D. Greene,

Asst Adjt Genl.

Official copy respectfully furnished for the information of Bt Maj. Wm J. Dawes, Capt 2 U.S.C. Genl Supt R. F. & A. L. at Pine Bluff, Ark, and the Superintendents in his District.

By command of

Bt Maj Genl E O C Ord. Asst. Comr.

Jno Lyle

Capt 2 U.S.C. Bt Maj. Vol.

A. A. A. Genl.

Little Rock, Ark.
Dec 19th 1866.

Blank Forms
for the arrest of
criminals.

Little Rock Ark.
Decbr. 16. 1866

Circular Letter.

Hd. Qrs. Dept of the Arkansas
Little Rock, Ark. Dec. 16. 1866

Circular Letter

To _____

Commanding Officer
Post of _____

Military Commanders in this Department, recieving application for a Military force to aid in the arrest of Citizens, who have been guilty of murder, robbery, aggravated assault, rape or arson upon Freedmen, freedwomen or their families, will furnish the necessary force to make the arrest, provided the application is accompanied with copies of affidavits of credible witnesses to the crime, and the statement of the Superintendent of Freedmen, that he has brought the case to the notice of the proper civil authorities of the state and they have failed or refused to take cognizance thereof

The troops furnished will return to their proper commands as soon as the arrests, have been made.

I am, Sir,

Covers

Very Respectfully
Your obdnt Servant
Signed O. D Greene
Asst. Adjt. General

Official copy respectfully furnished for the information of Bvt Maj. W. J. Graves Capt 12 U.S.C. Genl Supt. R. F. & L. at Pine Bluff, Ark. & the Superintendents in his district

By Command of
Bvt Maj Genl E.O.C. Ord asst Com.

Jno. Tyler
Capt 12 U.S.C. Bvt Maj U.S.A.
A.A.A.Genl.

(Signed)
Little Rock Ark
Dec. 19. 1866

A True Copy
Wm J Graves.
Bvt Maj. Capt 12th U.S.C.
Genl Supt

State of Arkansas }
County of Pope County } ss

Name of person making complaint

being first duly sworn the truth to speak deposes and
says that on the ____ day of ____ A.D. 18__
at the county of ____ in the state of Arkansas
name of person committing offense then and there
acting in the capacity of officer or station of offender
did then and there subject and cause to be subjected
one person upon whom offense was committed a citizen of the United
States of African descent to the deprivation of the right
to Here state right the person is deprived of

by then
and there

Here state further part of the case

The right to State right deprived of

being a right enjoyed by the white citizens
of said state - all of which the said name of offender
then and there did, in his official capacity of
official position of offender as
afore said, and under color of a law, statute, ordinance
or custom of the state of Arkansas, depriving citizens
of the United States of African descent of such rights.
the said name of Dogs then and there being
a citizen of the United States of African descent. con-
trary to the form of the statute in such cases.

made and provided. and against the peace and
dignity of the United States of America.

Subscribed and sworn to
before me this ____ day
of ____ A D 186

Name of Complainant

Signature of
title of officer before whom oath was made.

State of Arkansas }
County of _____ }ss

Name of person making complaint being first duly sworn the truth to speak deposes and says that on the ___ day of _____ 186__ at the County of _____ the State of Arkansas Name of person committing Offence then and there acting in the capacity of Office or station of offender did then and there cause to be subjected one Name of Negro punished a citizen of the United States of African descent to then state kind of punishment inflicted fully with circumstances being a different punishment, pain, and penalty than is prescribed by the laws of the State of Arkansas for the punishment of white persons, on account of the said Name of negro punished having heretofore been held in a condition of Slavery or involuntary servitude such Slavery or servitude not being the punishment for crime, and on account of the said Name of Negro punished being of the African race and a colored person all of which the said Name of person inflicting ordinary punishment did then and there in his official capacity of Official capacity of person inflicting punishment as aforesaid and under color of a law, statute, ordnance or

custom of the state of Arkansas prescrib
ing such different punishment to be inflic
ted on on colored persons or persons of African
descent= said Name of Negro persecuted
being then and there a person of African de-
scent or a colored person and a citizen of
the United States. Contrary to the form of
the statute in such cases made and provided
and against the peace and dignity of
the United States of America

Subscribed & sworn to
before me this ___ day of
_____ 1866

Name of complainant

Signature of
title of officer before whom this is made


J. R. Williams
U.S. Commissioner
Q.P.D.

Major W. J. Lowe
Genl. Superintendent &c
Pine Bluff Ark

Dec 27. 1845

Williams Wm Johnson.

U.S. Circuit Court

Deposition of the testimony of L J Billings in the Case of Mc Cancles Lessee Judge Jefferson Ed-

Office of U.S. commissioner
Osceola Ark Dec 27th 1886

Major

I have the honor to
report that upon the investigation of the case of D.W.
Reed & J Billings who was produced before me
& witness who testified that he did not
see one sign testimony before Judge Caruth
but that Judge Caruth did not refuse the
same- he offered a statement of the claimants
separate from the claim. and the claimants in
court that I would refuse myself as it is not
sworn.

I can only say Major that I am much
disappointed that Capt Billings should do so
and leave me in this position as it is
very unpleasant for me

I am very truly Yours
Jno H Williams

Major W. J Dove
Genl Superintendent &c
Osceola Arkansas

P.S. if you will come down I will show
you Capt Billings Testimony
JHW

Benton Road & 1st L.
Little Rock Ark
Dec 15 1866

Pope. Col. Henry. A. C. M. -

Directs taking Lumber
from Corps. The property
will probably be Sold Jany
1st 1867 at auction -

Hd Quarters Office R.R. & C.
Little Rock
Decr 15th 1866

Brevet Maj. H. J. Eames.
Supt Ark R.R. & C.
Pine Bluff Ark

Sir

The General Commanding authorizes you to take the necessary lumber for repairs of Hospitals and School Houses from the U.S. Corrals. It has never been turned over to Major Montgomery and receipts will not be required from you. You will please take what lumber you require during this month, as the balance will probably be sold at Auction about the 1st of January 1867

Very respectfully
your obdt Servt
Wm Page
A.A.A.G.

Brum. R.F.& A.L.
Little Rock Ark
Dec 30 - 1866

Page Col Henry A.A.G.M.

Remit'd check for $12.00
Mileage acct & Says acct
for $1.25 is not in Office.

Depty Office Bof A & W.A.S.
Little Rock Ark
Dec 20th 1866.

Bt Maj Wm J. Dawes.
Supt A & R.F. & W.A.S.
Pine Bluff Ark.

Sir

I have the honor to inclose herewith Check for Twelve Dollars ($12) of Merchants National Bk of this city in payment of your vouchers of Traveling Expenses under S.O. No 99.

The account of $12.50 you speak of in your Communication of Dec 14th is not in this Office.

I am Very respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Wm Gray
Bt Col & Cashr

Bureau R. F. + A. L.

Little Rock Ark

Dec. 27th. 1866

Sylvio Maj. John Aaaly.

Requests the acknowledging of the receipt of 100 forms application for arrears of pay + Bounty 100 forms applicable of discharged soldiers for additional Bounty

Received Dec 31 1866
Commissioner
Freedmen Refugees & Abandoned Lands
Assistant
Little Rock Ark

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,
Office of Assistant Commissioner,

Little Rock, Ark., Dec 27th 1866

Bt Maj. Wm J. Davis. U.S.C.
Genl Supt &c.
Pine Bluff, Ark.

Major,

I have the honor to inform you that I have mailed to you this day,
100 forms declarations for arrears of pay and bounty, and
100 forms applications of discharged soldiers for additional bounty,
the receipt of which you will please acknowledge. If more are needed they will be furnished on your application.

I am very respectfully,
Your Obt Servt,

John Eaton
Capt. U.S.C. Bt Major Vols
A.A.A.Genl

Little Rock Ark
Dec 20th 1866

Colby U.S.M.

In regard to the application
of Mr Byers for an
assistant teacher

Personal

Little Rock, Ark.
Dec. 20th 1866.

Friend Dawes:

I forward a copy of Meigell's application for a teacher to Rev. Shipherd to-day. I think the application will be met - but not by the 1st of Jany. The application reached me only yesterday.

Please say to Mr. Lyman that on my return to L. Rock I find a new form of application for payment of transportation for teachers has been issued, rendering void all that has been done in that direction. I shall com. with Shipherd.

I would recommend that repairs to the Amt of Twenty-five dollars be made on Byers School house for December. If he (Byers) is known to sell or use intoxicating drinks please report the fact to me.

Yours truly
W. M. Colby

Camino Place
Dec 21. 1866

1

Morton Cofer & Co

Sends Colored woman
with dropsy to Hospital

Cummins Place, Ark Co Ark
December 21st 1866

Maj Genl J. Davies
Superintending Agt Freedmen
Little Rock
Ark

Major

I have this day handed
your by the colored Woman Mary Jamison, who has been quite ill for a long time, she was recommended (Dinachune) but did what she could as long as she was able to get about. Her disease, I think is dropsy & limbs. I have kindly attended to, with the exception of medicine, she could do light work at the Hospital, such as giving Medicine & nourishment to patients.

I would say she has two little boys that I take good care of them, & their Mother request, Mary & her Children & I would gladly see them, but I will pay his passage on the boat. I commend her to your kindness because I believe her to be worthy.

Jeremiah Reiff will present my next Report, which I feel assured will be entirely satisfactory to you as I may be along in person before many days.

With Compliments of the approaching festive season & many bright returns to you & yours I remain

Respectfully Your friend

Lewis H. Morrison

3

Burns R. F. & L.
Little Rock Ark
Dec 22 - 1866

Pay to Lt. Henry A. Dix -

Transmitting check for
Mileage $12.50

Ast Duty Office Asst. Adt. Gen'l
Little Rock Arkansas
Dec 22nd 1866.

Br Maj W J Nairea.
Supt R. F. & L.
Pine Bluff ark

Sir

I have the honor to enclose herewith check for Twelve hundred Dollars amt of your vouchers for Traveling Expenses

I am very respectfully
Your obdt Servant
Henry Doyle
Brvt Capt Dam'o

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark
Dec 22 - 1866

Byler Maj John A.A.G.

Transmitting 100 Blank
Monthly Certificates

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,
Office of Assistant Commissioner,

Little Rock, Ark., [illegible] 186[illegible]

Bvt Maj Wm J Dawes, U.S.A.
Asst Supt R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff. Ark.

Major

I have the honor to inform you that I have mailed to you this day 100 blank marriage certificates, to fill your requisition of the 11th inst.
Please acknowledge receipt.

I am very respectfully,
Your Obt Servt.

Jno Tyler
Capt U.S.A. Bvt Maj Genl.
A.A.A. Genl

Pay Masters Office
Little Rock
Dec 22. 1866

Smith May J. M — P.M.

Transmitting pay for
Dec 1866 —

Little Rock Dec 22nd 66

Wm J Dawes
Brt Maj's Genl Supt of Freedmen
Pine Bluff Ark

Sir!

I send you herewith
Check on New York of Julius H Davis
for $125.05., amount of your Pay accounts
for Decbr 1866 and your order, as requested
by letter of Dec 20th 1866

Very respectfully
Your obt Servants
J W Smith
Pr Wm Hardee

27. 27-12-66
Pine Bluff Ark.
Dec 24th 1866
Dec 29=

Byers. J. S. Teacher

Application for aid for
School House

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Fort Smith & Dist Ter
Little Rock Ark
Dec 29. 1866.

Respectfully returned
This school should
be provided itself with
fuel.
By command of
Bvt Maj Genl Fisk
Asst Com
Jno Taylor
Capt 2d U.S. Arty Bvt
A.A.A.G.

Bvt Maj Genl Fisk
Asst Com
Little Rock Ark

Dec 26th 1866

Respectfully forwarded
without remark: as ap-
plication was made by me
in my letter of Nov 27th
which has not been acted
upon=

[illegible]
Bvt Maj Genl Supt

Dec 3. Nov. 2. 66

Pine Bluff Decr. 24th 1866

Maj. Dawes
A. Supt. Bureau
R. A. L. & F. M.
Pine Bluff Ark.

Dear Sir:

As teacher of F. M. and in their behalf I ask aid from the Gen. Government to furnish fuel for the use of the School

Very Respectfully

T. D. Byers
Teacher of F/m
Pine Bluff
Ark

Bvt Brig Genl
Little Rock Ark
Dec 28. 1866

Gen Maj John Adams

State that property can not be transferred pending suit from one Dept to another.

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,
Office of Assistant Commissioner,

Little Rock, Ark., Dec. 25th 1866

Major Wm J. Dawes
Genl Subs'd
Pine Bluff Ark.

Major.

In reply to Your request of the 24th inst. asking for authority to transfer certain articles from your return as Capt Co "D" 2d U.S.C. to your return of stores belonging to Bureau of R. F. & A. L. I am directed by the Asst. Commissioner to refer you to paragraph No 1026. Rev. Army Regulations, which states that "Public property shall not be transferred gratuitously from one staff department to another."

I am very respectfully
Your Obt Servt.

Jno Eyler
Capt U.S.C. 1st Maj Vols.
A.A.A. Genl

34-5-1-67

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff. Ark.
Dec 28th 1866
Dec 31 —

Dawes, Wm J. Bvt Maj Genl Supt

State that one Reuter has collected soldiers discharge papers representing they were to be prepaid & collected free to the Soldier by the Bureau & has left them with a claim agency in this City, & asks directions to procure affidavits of the facts & on them to assign all Colored soldiers discharge papers in this Office, for further orders —

D 91. Vol.

DEC 31 1866 FREEDMEN'S BUREAU LITTLE ROCK

Bureau R F & A L
For State & 2nd Dist
Little Rock Ark
Dec 31. 1866.

Respectfully returned to Bvt Maj. Wm J. Dawes Genl Supt. The claimants in these cases have a legal right to take their discharge papers from the hands of the claim agents who obtained them through fraudulent practices or otherwise. The claimants can revoke the power of attorney given to these agents and transfer that to any Trader and have their claims collected through the Bureau. They should be protected in this right and it is believed that this can be done without using military force. The seizure of the discharges as recommend within is disapproved. Your attention is respectfully invited to the Bounty Laws which provide for the fees of claim agents and if you find that these claim agents are charging greater fees than are allowed by law cognizance should be taken of their acts

over

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, & Abondoned Lands
Pine Bluff Dec. 28th 1866

Sir

I respectfully ask to present the following for the consideration of the Asst. Commissioner. Application is frequently made at this Office by discharged Colored soldiers in regard to their discharge papers. Upon investigation it is found that their papers are not and never have been in this Office. They represent, and receipts in their possession show, that their Certificates of discharge have been taken by one Butts on the representation by him that they were to go to the Bureau to be forwarded free, while, in fact they were taken to a Claim Agency in this City, where 10% for all collections of soldiers claims is retained. This Butts has collected large numbers of these papers and so left them, and his whereabouts are not known. This agency have some Three Hundred of these papers a large proportion of which it is supposed were thus obtained. I respectfully ask directions to take the affadavits of Two or More of these Freedmen who

have thus been swindled and upon them to take possession of all the discharge papers of colored soldiers in the Office of this Agency and hold them subject to future Orders

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Wm. J. Dawes.
Bvt Maj. Genl Supt R.F. & A.L.

To
Major John Tyler A.A.A.G.
Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock
Ark Kansas

By command of
Bvt Maj Genl Howard
Asst. Commr

John Tyler
Lieut 14th U.S. Infy
A.A.A.G.

E 388

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark
Dec 29. 1866

Anderson Smith
to
S. R. Cockrell

Instructions from Genl.
Ords directing a Court
of reference & how to
proceed -

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,
Office of Assistant Commissioner,

Little Rock, Ark., Dec 29th 1866.

Bt Maj Wm J Dames. A R L
Genl Supt
Point Bluff Ark.

Major,

I am directed by the Asst Comr to instruct you as follows in the case of the contract between Andrews Smith and S. R Cockerill &c.-)

1st The contract is binding, it having been approved by the acting Agent of the Bureau, and that no copy is filed does not invalidate it as the Agent had the opportunity to require the copy when it was approved; his failure to do so should not go to the detriment of the contractors.

2nd There are but two parties to this contract i.e. the two signing; the previous contract which had been made with Mallory being at the time ignored by both and Mallory's name not appearing on the contract under consideration. You will therefore

settle the matter, as far as appointment of a court, as if no contract with Mallory had ever been made, only considering whether the services contracted for were rendered in full and in good faith.

3rd The transfer of property after contract with Smith is not to be considered as it is simply like any other contract subject to previous liens.

4th As Anderson Smith's testimony is not good in a Court of law in this State and the Courts in your District are now reported by you as unlikely to do full justice, you will therefore call on Cockerill to appoint a referee. In case he fails to do so appoint one for him and such an one as he would be likely to appoint if he acted. Appoint another yourself, one whose character for just dealing with his employees is good, and call on Smith to appoint a third. And let this reference Court after having all the testimony and the statements to

connect or otherwise of the two parties to this suit) — conversations with other parties not mentioned in the contract are not to be considered testimony — (decide the case,) and you will be governed by the award of this Court, holding the cotton until the award is made and after it is made, disposing of the cotton as to secure Smith in any amount that may have been made to him.

5th In case a writ is sued out to take possession of the cotton refuse to let it go and answer that it is held under the U. S. laws, making you, as Agent of the Bureau, the custodian of property in dispute until it can be properly disposed of. The number of acres named in the contract as being on the place will govern in assessing any damages for acres. You will consult with the U. S. Commissioner as to what steps may become necessary in case the Civil Au-

Hostilities attempted to interfere and effect by telegraph if a force is necessary.
(Please say acknowledge
Your obt Servt.

John Tyler
Cont 28th May 1st
Attorney)

Bureau R. F. & L.
Little Rock Ark
January 2. 1867

Circular Letter

Authorizing agents of Bureau
when he has troops without
other commissioned officers
to act as A.A.A.G. & A.C.S.

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,
Office of Assistant Commissioner,

Circular Letter. Little Rock, Ark., jany 2d 1867.

Sir.

When detachments of troops are serving without other commissioned officer than an agent of this Bureau, such agents will report by letter to the Chief Quartermaster Department of the Ark Kansas. Col't. Montgomery; as Quartermaster, and to the Chief Commissary of the Department, Col. Jas. G. Crane, as Commissary in addition to his other duties, in order that he may make necessary purchases, receipt for property &c. Each of such officers will sign himself as A.A.A.M. and A.C.S.

By command of

Bt Maj Genl. E.O.C. Ord. Asst Com'd
by J. John Tyler
Capt & C.C. Bt Maj Vols
A.A.A.G.

Hd Qrs Dept of the Arkansas
Little Rock Ark. Janry 4. 1867.

Approved:
By Command of
Bt Maj Genl E.O.C. Ord.
(Sgd) O.D. Greene
Asst Adjt Genl.

Official

Jno Tyler
Capt 15 R.C. Bt Maj Vols
A.A.A.G.

Bt Maj Wm. J. Dawes.
Genl Supt R.C.
Pond Bluff Ark

Princeton Ark
Jany 2nd 1867

Mallett G. M.
Supt

Sending freedwoman
to Hospital.

January

Roanoke Ark Jany 2nd 1866

Supt Hospital
Camp Bluff Ark

Sir by the order of Genl Dye
Asst Quartermaster I am
directed to send Minnie Grizzee to you. as
She is old and infirm and has no way of
support. Since receiving the above order the
woman Frances has heard a letter from her
husband who resides at New Orleans La.
he proposes to send for her. as soon as he
learns her whereabouts. I have written a letter
to him for her. and suppose it will not be
a great while before he sends after her

Respectfully yours

J. W. Mallett Supt &c
Dallas County Ark

32-5-1-67

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Dec. 29th 1866
Jany 3 67

Dawes. Major Wm G.
Genl Supt

Acknowledges receipt of Circulars Nos 32 & 33 current series and asks instructions in regard to them

D 101. Vol 2. 67

RECEIVED JAN 9 1867 B.R.F. & A.L. LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
For Ark & Ind Ter
Little Rock, Ark
Jan 3rd 1867

Respectfully returned to Bt Maj Wm G. Dawes, Genl Supt. Orders are made to day rescinding Par 4 of Circular No 30. Series of 1866. All cases between freedmen and whites, on account of State laws disallowing negro testimony in such cases will properly come before the agent of the Bureau. The orders prescribing fines for drunkenness in cases of freedmen are not on account of previous conditions of slavery but on account of getting drunk as a freedman. If lawyers attempt to interfere, notify them that their interference with the provisions of the bill creating the Bureau and the Civil Rights Bill which give exclusive jurisdiction to you will subject them to arrest, and when brought you will take all cases of freedmen out of their hands. The only way to silence lawyers is to use military force and not allow them to be the judges of your proceedings.

By command of
Bt Maj Genl Ord
Asst Surgn
J. M. Tyler
Capt. & RQ Bt Maj Vols
& Asst A. A. G.

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands
Pine Bluff Ark. Dec. 29th 66

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Circulars No 32 & 33 Current series from your office; and to state that I find difficulty in reconciling them - Circular No 32 deems a person guilty of a Misdemeanor who shall subject an inhabitant to different penalties on account of his previous condition of slavery &c, than is prescribed for the punishment of Whites. Circular No 33 directs that Freedmen guilty of drunkeness &c will be fined not to exceed Ten Dollars - No punishment is inflicted for drunkenness by statutes of this state, I believe. The guilt is to be proven to the Agent of the Bureau and the fine imposed by Freedmen and paid to them. What rule is to govern in the selection of the Freedmen for the Jury & how many is it to be composed? Who is to decide the money & in what proportion to each? Please give me full instructions as to how to enforce this circular as I anticipate a good deal of trouble as the persons who get drunk are the ones that make the most

disturbance now I am very glad to have some means at the disposal of the Superintendents to reach this evil if it can be so clear in its construction as to admit of no doubt in regard to the manner of its enforcement. I will suppose A.B. is contracted to C.D. A.B. is drunk someday & does no work in consequence during the forenoon & is chased by C.D. for half day lost and half day rations and he proves to Supt the man could not work on account of drunkeness - The fine of Ten Dollars & 01 is charged against him and stopped from his wages. At the expiration of contract A.B. refuses to accept the stoppage of $10.00 and appeals to me on the ground of its being a violation of Civil Rights Bill He does not object to the stoppage of the time he lost & rations or to a payment of damage if such be C.D., but to the fine assessed and paid to the Freedmen - What should I do in this case - I dont ask this to be technical but the lawyers have got hold of these Black people & are hunting up troubles to get them into & I know I shall have scores of these questions to answer

I have the honor to be
Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Wm J. Dawes
Bvt Major. Genl Supt R.F. & A.L.

To
Major John Eaton A.A.G.
Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock
Arkansas.

Bureau R. S. & A. L.
for Ark. & Ind. Territory
Little Rock Ark. Jan 3 1867

Sylvester Maj Judson
A. A. A Genl

States that no instructions
have been received from the
Commissioner requiring returns
to be made for blanks -

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,
Office of Assistant Commissioner,

Little Rock, Ark., Jan 24 1867

No. 1.

Bt Maj. Wm J Davies
Asst Supt. &c.
Pine Bluff, Ark.

Major.

In reply to your communication of the 29th ult. acknowledging receipt of blank Division blanks and inquiring if you are expected to make returns of them, I am directed by the Asst Comr to inform you that no instructions have been received from the Commissioner requiring returns to be made for blanks.

I am very respectfully
Your Obt Servt

Jno Eaton
Lieut 21st U.S. Infy
Asst Supt

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
For Ark. & Ind. Territ.
Little Rock Jan 3. 1867

Tyler Maj John
A. A. G. Genl

States that the action taken in the case of certain Colored Vagrants as reported by Lieut of Maj Crawley for. — Inclosed with the 29th ult. are Approved —

Endorsement
Maj Tyler
Jan 3 1867
Rec'd

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,
Office of Assistant Commissioner,
Little Rock, Ark., Jan 3rd 1867

Bvt Maj. Wm J. Dawes. A.A.A.G.
General Superintendent.
Pine Bluff. Ark.

Major,

I am directed by the Asst Comm'r to inform you that the action taken in the case of certain colored vagrants as reported by letter of Maj. W. G. Crawley, forwarded by you the 29th ult. is approved.

I am very respectfully,
Your Obt Servt.

Jno Taylor
Capt A.A.A.G. Bvt Maj. Vols.
A. A. A. Genl.

33-5-1-67

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff
Dec. 29. 66
Jany 3/67

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
For Ark. & Ind. Ter.
Little Rock Ark.
Jan 3d 1867

Dawes, Major W.J.
Genl Supt

Respectfully returned to Bt Maj. W.J. Dawes Genl Supt. Permission granted. It is proper for Superintendents to proceed in similar cases without asking for authority.
By command of
Bt Maj. Genl Ords.
Asst Comrs
Jno Eyler
Capt. V.R.C. Bt Maj. Vols.
A.A.A. Genl

Asks permission to go to Arkansas to investigate the murder of a freedman

E # Vol 2

D # 9. Vol 2. 67

JAN 2 1867
B.R.F. & A.L. LITTLE ROCK

BUREAU, REFUGEES, FREEDMEN & ABANDONED LANDS,

Office Gen'l Sup't & Provost Marshal,

ARKANSAS RIVER DISTRICT.

Pine Bluff, Ark. December 29th **1866**

Major

I have the honor to state that I am informed of a most brutal murder of a Freedman has been perpetrated in Arkansas County by a White man and that the civil authorities fail or refuse to act in the case and respectfully ask for authority to go to said County and investigate the matter

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Wm Dawes.
Bvt Maj. Genl Supt

To
Maj. John Tyler
A.A.G. Department of Ark
Little Rock
Arkansas.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
For Ark & Ind Territory
Little Rock Jan 8, 1867

Tyler Maj John
A. A. Genl

States that request of
29th Ill to canvas district
is disapproved, and that
detachments furnished can
be used. Also that requisition
can be made for horse and
equipments.

Assistant Commissioner
Bureau Ref. and Aband. Lands
Arkansas

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,
Office of Assistant Commissioner,

Little Rock, Ark., Jan 3rd 1866

Bvt Maj Wm J. Dawes U.S.C.
General Superintendent
Pine Bluff, Ark.

Majo.

I am directed by the Asst Com'r to inform you that your request of the 28th ult. to canvas your district is approved. The mounted detachment furnished you can be used. As A.A.G. Mo in accordance with Circulars Letter of this date you can make requisition for horse and equipments

I am very respectfully,
Your Obt Servt,

W O Seyler
Capt. U.S.C. Bvt Maj. Vols.
A.A.A. Genl,

B B Tot & L for Mo. Asst. V. Ind Tex
Office Gen Supt of Schools
Little Rock Ark Jan 4 1867

Colby W. M.
Genl Supt of Schools for Ark.
B B T. & L

States that he expects
to take a tour down the
river on business connected
with Schools. and requests
But Maj. W. J. Dawes to have
ready all the information
he can get thes concerning
plantation Schools

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,

For Missouri, Arkansas and Indian Territory,

Office of Gen'l. Supt. of Schools.

Little Rock, Ark. Jan. 4, 1867

Friend Dawes;

My Asst. has not yet reported, nor has Capt. Stewart who is to act as my clerk. When my help reports it is my design to operate in person or otherwise, down the river. Be so kind as to have ready all the definite information you can get concerning plantation schools. Hope we shall be able to furnish Stove & blackboard to such schools - they can not expect more. Three Thousand dollars ($3000.) will go to Pine Bluff to build permanent School house, conditioned that a lot is furnished by the A.M.A. by citizens or by freedmen. Yours &c.

Wm. A. Colby

Bureau R. E. & A. L.
Office Genl Supt Schools
Little Rock Jan 4, 1867

Colby Wm M
Genl Supt Schools

Acknowledges the receipt of Report of Schools for Dec 1866. States that Day & night Schools should be reported Separately and request that teachers make out new reports for Dec and that they be forwarded without delay.

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,

For Missouri, Arkansas and Indian Territory,

Office of Gen'l. Supt. of Schools.

Little Rock, Ark. Jan. 4 1867.

Wm J. Dawes,
Genl Supt &c,
Pine Bluff, Ark.

Major:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Report of Schools at Pine Bluff for month of Dec. 1866. As day and night Schools should be reported Separately, you will please cause your teachers to report accordingly for said month, and forward without delay.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient Servant,
W M Colby
Genl Supt. Schools Ark.

Bureau R. F. and A. L.,
Quartermasters Office
Little Rock, Jan. 7 1867

Capt. Henry
Bt. Maj. and A. Q. M.

Requests Maj. Davies to sign Bills of Lading. One Box Stationery shall be that the same may be collected of the Govt. —

January —

Bill Log for Stationery

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,
Quartermaster's and Disbursing Office,
Little Rock, Ark., January 1st 1867.

Bt Maj Genl O. D. Ames
Genl Supt R. F. & A. L.
Vicksburg Miss

Major

I have the honor to instruct you to sign the Bills of Lading "one Box of Stationery Short" and if the Station has the Box on her up trip instruct the Officer to return it to this office and it will be allowed, if they do not find the Box or will charge it to them and deduct the amount from the freight

I am very respectfully
Your obdt Servant
Orrin Page
Bt Col and A. D. C.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark
January 8th 1867

Tyler Maj John a a a ds.

In regard to the revocation of Orders discontinuing Local Offices in Arkansas Jefferson Col -

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Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,
Office of Assistant Commissioner,

Little Rock, Ark., Jan. 8th 1866.

Bt Maj Wm J. Dawes
Genl Supt &c
Pine Bluff Ark.

Majr.

In reply to your telegram of this date asking if your duties are changed by Circulas No 1, and if Circulas No 29 is in force, I am directed by the Assistant Commissioner to inform You that you will proceed in the discharge of your duties, the same as though the Circulas No 29. & the same republished in Par. 4 of Circulas No 30, had not been issued. As Par 4. Circulas No 30 is the later publication of the orders contained in Circulas No 29, that Circulas cannot be in force when the first named is revoked.

I am very respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.

Jno Eyler
Capt. U.S.C. Bt Maj Vols.
A.A.A.G.

Little Rock
January 10-67

Tyler Maj John A.A.G.

Regarding Bastardy -
Circular Letter -

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,
Office of Assistant Commissioner,

Little Rock, Ark., Jan 10th 1867.

Private

Circular Letter.

Sir

The Asst. Commissioner directs that the course pursued by officers of this Bureau in complaints of bastardy, be restricted to an advisory one only. They will refer the complaints to the civil Authorities, endeavoring by advice to induce such authorities to apply the laws of the State to the freedpeople

I am very respectfully
Your Obt Servt

Jno Tyler
Capt 1 U S C H Arty Vol
A. A. A. Gen'l.

Bt Maj W. J. Dawes
Genl Supt'd
Pine Bluff
Ark

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Dec 20th 1866
Jany 10/67

Adams. Wm J. - Bt Maj Genl Supt

Asks explanation of Circular
No 31. Apt Genl - Little Rock as regards
Citizen physicians contracted with
as Asst Surgeons U.S.A.

276. Vol. 2, 66.

RECEIVED DEC 22 1866 R.F. & A.L. LITTLE ROCK, ARK. & IND. TER.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
For Asst & Insd Lds
Little Rock Ark
Dec 31st 1866

Respectfully referred
to Bt Col Henry Page
Lt Quartermaster who
will please furnish
the information de-
sired.
By command of
Bt Maj Genl Ord
Asst Comm
J. M. Taylor
Capt 2d U.S. Bt Maj USA
E. 379 Asst Q.

Hdqrs Detby Office
Bur R. F. & A. L.
L. Rock Jan 10. 67

Respy returned to
Maj W. J. Dawes.
Circular No 31.
is not intended
to include acty
Asst Surgeons
Henry Page
Bvt Col USA

BUREAU, REFUGEES, FREEDMEN & ABANDONED LANDS,

Office Gen'l Sup't & Provost Marshal,

ARKANSAS RIVER DISTRICT.

Pine Bluff, Ark. December 20th 1866

Major

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Circular No 31 Bureau R.F.& A.L. Little Rock Ark Dec 17th 1866 & to enquire if citizen physicians regularly contracted with, as a a Surgeons in Charge of Hospitals for R & F, are included in the words "citizen Superintendents or Agents.

Also to enquire, in case they are, whether it will be my duty to place the employes of the Hospital here, upon my rolls.

Very Respectfully
Your Ob't Servant
Wm J. Dames. Bvt Maj
Genl Supt—

Major John Tyler A.A.A.G.
Bureau R. F. & A.L.
Little Rock
Ark.

Pine Bluff
January 10th 1867

Page Col Henry

Requisits Invoices
& Receipts for Clothing -

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,
Quartermaster's and Disbursing Office,

Little Rock, Ark., January 16 1867.

Br. Maj. W. J. Dawes
Genl Supt R. F. and A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith Invoices and Receipts and duplicate Bills of Lading for Clothing and Stationery Shipped to you this day by Str Florence Baker.

You will Sign the Vouchers and return the Same to this Office.

I am very respectfully
Your Obdt Servant
Henry Page
Bvt Col and A.Q.M.

3

Little Rock
January 10. 63

Montgomery. Col. A.
Chief Q. M.

Returning four Cabins
now for Sale - also
repairing Ground floors
at Pine Bluff -

Head Quarters Department of Arkansas,

OFFICE CHIEF QUARTERMASTER,

Little Rock, Ark., [illegible] 1863.

[illegible]

ready to receive them
I have engaged one Agent to
perform this service who is
duly writing Orders to commence
I have charge Very respectfully
Your Obt Svt
Lt Col & D Ch Engrs
Chf Engr Dept Gulf.

Brevet Maj W. H. Chase
23d Regt. N. Y. S. V.
Camp Pinckney Bluffton
S.C.

Brevet B. G. and A. L.
Officer Chief Q. M.
Little Rock, Jan 10.
'67

Page. Henry
Bt. Col. A. Q. M.

Returns requisitions for
stationery which he cannot
fill and encloses letters
for signature to be returned.

Stationery

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,
Quartermaster's and Disbursing Office,

Little Rock, Ark., January 11th 1867.

Bt Maj Genl W. J. Dawes
Genl Supt R. F. and A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark's

Sir

I have the honor to return herewith your Requisitions for Stationery for the Quarter Ending March 31st 1867

Being unable to furnish Some of the articles required I Send herewith other Requisitions which you will please Sign and return the Same to this Office

I am very respectfully
your Obt Servant
Henry Page
Bt Col and A. Q. M.
per Torrans

Bureau Refugees F and A.
Office asst. Comr
Little Rock Jan 12.

Tyler. Jno.
Maj. Vols A.A.G.

States that 100 copies
of circular letter in regard
to contracts are ordered
printed for use in Ark
Rev. Dist.

150 copies Circular for Ark Dist ordered

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,
Office of Assistant Commissioner,

Little Rock, Ark., [illegible] 1867.

#23.

Bt. Maj. Wm. J. Dames.
Asst. Supt. &c
Pine Bluff, Ark.

Major.

In reply to your communication of the 10th inst enclosing a copy of Circular Letter containing some of the leading requirements in regards to contracts, and requesting that 150 copies of the same may be printed for distribution in your district I have the honor to inform you that they have been ordered printed and will be mailed to you by next mail.

I am very respectfully,
Your Obt Servt.

Jno Eaton
Asst Commr &c
[illegible]

No. 2.

Burnam R. F., A. L.

Arkansas r Ind. Ter.

Little Rock Jan 12. 1867

Tyler, Maj. Jno.

A. a. G. Burnam

Approves the appointment

of H. D. Hale as agent for

Arkansas County

Read Pine Bluff. Jan 21. 1867

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,
Office of Assistant Commissioner,

#22. Little Rock, Ark., Jan'y 12th 1867.

Bt Maj Wm J. Daines. O.R.C.
Asst Supt. &c,
Pine Bluff. Ark.

Major,

In reply to your communication of the 10th inst recommending the appointment of Wm D. Hale, as Superintendent for Arkansas County, I am directed by the Asst Comr to authorize you to place Mr Hale on duty in accordance therewith, except the furnishing of Rooms and forage which would be contrary to the "Bureau Regulations" (copy of which would be furnished officers as soon as a sufficient number are supplied). When the service requires the use of a horse to enable an officer to perform a temporary duty, authority will be given by the Asst Comr for the hiring of one for the requisite periods.

I am very respectfully &c

M.O. Tyler

Capt & A.A.A.G. Asst. Adj. Gen. & A.A.C.

No. 1.

Bureau R. F. A. L.
Office Supt. Ark. Ris & Col
Pine Bluff. Jan 12. 1867

Dawes. M. J.
Maj. & Gen. Supt.

Appoints Maj. Hale
Supt. of Arkansas Co.

Rcd. Pine Bluff. Jan 12. 1867

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A. L.
Office Asst. Supt. & Sp. Marshal
Arkansas River District
Pine Bluff Ark. Jan. 12. 1867

Sir:

In compliance with the instructions of the Asst. Commissioner You are hereby appointed an agent of this Bureau for Arkansas County Ark. subject to the approval of the Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau to perform the duties of superintendent. to date from Jan 10. 1867. You will proceed immediately in company with the Asst. Supt. to the County to which you are assigned, and locate an office under his direction. You will procure from Capt. Crawford Fletcher late Supt, all the Records. Books and papers of the office receipting to him therefor and assume and perform the duties of your office in conformity to the rules and regulations prescribed by the Commissioner and other Officers under whose authority You are placed.

Any question arising causing grave doubts in your mind as to your duty in the case will be referred to the Asst. Comr. thro this office

Very respectfully
Your obt. servant
Wm J. Davis
Bvt Maj Gen Supt
Ark Riv Dist

Maj W. D. Hale
Supt.
Ark Co

LR 2117 (E) Vol. 2. 67

BUREAU R. F. & A. L.
Office General Sup't. & Pro. Marshal
Arkansas River District,
Pine Bluff, Ark., January 11th 1867.

DAWES,—W. J.
BREVET MAJ. CAPTAIN 23. V. R. C. GENERAL SUP'T.

Requests permission to distribute Circular No 33-1866 & asks to be furnished a supplies number —

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Dep. Ark & Ind. Ter.
Little Rock Ark.
Jan 14th 1867

Respectfully returned to Bvt Maj Wm J. Dawes Genl Supt. Circular No 33 may be published in Pine Bluff newspapers provided the papers publish it gratuitously. Additional copies of Circular No 33 will be supplied as soon as they can be obtained from the printers

By command of
Bvt Maj Genl Ord
Asst Comy

Jno Taylor
Capt 23 R C Bvt Maj Vols
R. 24. Vol 2 a.a.a.g.

BUREAU REFUGEES, FREEDMEN & ABANDONED LANDS

Office General Sup't. & Provost Marshal,

ARKANSAS RIVER DISTRICT,

Pine Bluff, Ark,, January 11th 1867

Sir

It is frequently a matter of great delicacy for me to determine how much of the orders I receive it is proper for me to make public - There are many of them it appears to me it would be of great benefit to have widely circulated - I have this opinion of Circular No 33 of Dec 21st 1866 - Drunkenness is so great an evil and the remedies proposed are so effectual. I greatly desire to give publicity to the circular -

I respectfully request authority to present a copy to each of the papers here for them to publish if they see fit. and that I be furnished a hundred copies for distribution in my district -

Very respectfully

Your obt Servant

Wm Dawes

Bvt Maj. Gen'l Supt

Maj John Tyler A.A.G.

Bureau R. F. & A.L.

Little Rock Ark

Hq. 2d. Dept. Arkansas
Office Chief Qr. Mastr
Little Rock Jan 13. 1867

Montgomery

Dept. U.S. Grand

Encloses invoices and
receipts for 4000 feet of
lumber —

4000 ft Lumber

Headquarters Department of the Arkansas,

Office Chief Quartermaster,

Little Rock. Ark. July 13 1867.

Capt Wm D Jones
A.C.S. U.S.A.
Fort Smith Ark

Major

In accordance with your letter of July 10th. I enclose herewith Abstract and Receipts for 4,000 ft Lumber. The Mess house has been turned over by Brt Col H Page A.D.C. as explained in my letter of this date; it is therefore not included on this Invoice

Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
E Montgomery
Bvt Lt Col & A.C.G. U.S.A.
Chief Q.M. Dept of the Ark

Bureau R. F. and A. L.

Office Dr. Master

Little Rock Jan 14. 1867

Page. Henry

Pvt. Co. a. 2. Ill.

States that he cannot keep monies belonging to U. S. Govt. in the safe in his Office -

---

Safe Keeping of monies

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,
Quartermaster's and Disbursing Office,

Little Rock, Ark. January 14th 1867.

Bt Maj. W. J. Davis
Genl Supt R. F. and A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.

Major

Your Telegram of the 12th inst is at hand. You are respectfully informed that existing orders from the War Department prevent compliance with your request.

Existing orders prohibits my keeping any portion of the funds for which I am accountable in Safe in my office. and I am compelled to forward weekly Statements to Washington with certificate attached, that all funds for which I am accountable are deposited in U. S. Depository

I am Very Respectfully
Your Obdt Servant
Thos Page
Bt Col and A. Q. M.

Office Chf Dr Master
Little Rock Ark
Jan 14, 1867

Montgomery Lt Col &
Chf Dr Master

States that the Log Houses
turned over to the Bureau
ues in accordance with
instructions from HD Qrs,
Also. That if any of the Log
houses are needed for the
detachment here. notify the
Purchaser that they will be
given up when no longer
needed for Public Service

Headquarters Department of the Arkansas,

Office Chief Quartermaster,

Little Rock. Ark. Jany 14th 1867.

Major -

I invoiced a log house to you, pursuant to an Order from Hd Quarters of this Depart-ment directing me to turn over to you the Mess. House at Pine Bluff, - supposing that the Mess house was one of the log cabins turned over to me by Col Page A.Q.M, no such designation as a mess house appearing on his transfer list of the buildings at Pine Bluff. I have just learned from Col Page that he had already turned over to you the Mess house you speak of. Should you re-quire any of Log cabins for the accommo-dation of the detachment recently ordered to Pine Bluff, stipulate in the sale thereof that possession shall be given when they shall be no longer required for the Public service. -

To

Very Respectfully

J. Odell Smith

Brt Maj. U.S.A.

23rd U.S. Inf.

Actg Asst Qr Mr

Lieut & Deputy Q. M. Gen. U.S.A.

Chief 2d Mo Office
Bureau R.F. & C.L.
Little Rock Ark Jan 17th 1867

Capt Bvt Lt Col Kelly
A.Q.M.

Acknowledges Receipts
and returns for
Stationary

2 Inclosures —
Transfers Stationery to Maj Dawson

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,
Quartermaster's and Disbursing Office,

Little Rock, Ark. January 7 1867.

Bt Maj. W. L. Dawes
Asst Supt R.F. and A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark's

Major

I have the honor to transmit herewith Invoices and Receipts for amount of Stationery drawn on your last Requisition

The new regulations for the government of this Bureau requires Stationery to be transfered to all Officers who are accountable for public property, the Stationery to be taken up and accounted for by them on their Property Return to the Chief Q.M. of this Bureau at Washington D.C. You will Sign the vouchers and return them to this Office

I am Very Respectfully
Your Obdt Servant
Wm. Page
Bt Lt and A.A.Q.M.

Pine Bluff Ark
January 15th 1867

Douglass, U.S.A

Relating to Cotton & Shipped
for the benefit of freedmen
employed by Gorse & Billings

Pine Bluff. Ark.
Jan. 18. 1867

Messrs Boyd, Coleman & Galvan

Sirs; I have just received letter of your Mr. A. M. Boyd & must say that its tenor has somewhat surprized me. I had hoped heretofore that the proceeds of twenty bales of cotton (taken possession of by the Freedmens Bureau Agent; Maj: Bowen & released upon agreement of Mr. Boyd & Gore & Billings by. that the freedmen should be preferred creditors on the cotton thus released) would be held subject to my order for the purpose above mentioned. And I was indeed surprized to learn that this agreement made with the above parties, & my right as shipper of the cotton were both ignored. I have nothing to do with balance of cotton on the plantation. The Agent of the Bureau, Maj' Bowen also declines to claim other cotton than that sent to your house for a specific purpose. But he holds me responsible as shipper of this cotton for so much of the proceeds of

twenty bales of cotton as will satisfy the claim of the gentleman. To obtain my self I have shown him (Maj. Dawes) your last letter of Jan. 5th & while he does not release me from my responsibility as shipper (tho' do you know that responsibility was placed upon me without my knowledge) he intimates that his duty is plain & that he will at once place himself in communication with the Bureau in your city relative to this matter.

Having made this explanatory statement to you in full, I hope you will place the assistance asked for in my last letter, subject to my order or, what I should much prefer, subject to order Maj. Hale agent Bureau F. R. & A. L. for Ark. Co., whose postoffice will be at Auburn, Ark.

I am gentlemen yours

Very Respectfully

W. F. Douglass

7 Inclosures

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Ark & Ind Ter
Little Rock Jan 21. 1867

Tyler, Maj Jno
A. A Genl.

Approves action of
Maj. Davis in seizing
Cotton of Doboyy in the
interest of the laborers —

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,
Office of Assistant Commissioner,

#42.

Little Rock, Ark., Janiy 21st 1867.

Brevet Maj. Wm. J. Davis
Genl Supt &c.
Pine Bluff. Ark.
Major

I have the honor to inform you that your action in the seizure of cotton on the Colonel Dobbery plantation, as reported in your communication of the 10th inst is approved by the Assistant Commissioner

I am very respectfully
Your Obt Servt

Jno Tyler
Capt V R C. & A. Maj Vols
A. A. A. Genl.

L R. D. Ltr (E) Vol 2/67

BUREAU R. F. & A. L.

Office General Sup't. & Pro. Marshal,

Arkansas River District,

Pine Bluff, Ark., January 11 1867.

DAWES,—W. J. Jany 21/67

BREVET MAJ. CAPTAIN 23. V. R. C. GENERAL SUP'T.

Desires instructions in the Case of Harding and Dobosey charged with assault with intent to Kill -

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
For Ark & Ind. Ter
Little Rock Ark
Jan 21 1867.

Respectfully returned to Bt Maj Wm J. Dawes. Genl Supt &c. When in your opinion the Civil Authorities of the State fail to take action as reported within evidence should be collected and laid before the U.S. Commissioners at Pine Bluff or in case he is in doubt it may be forwarded to this office.

By command of
Bt Maj Genl Ord
Asst Adjt Genl

D. G. Taylor
Capt 23d U.S.C.T. & Actg
Asst Adjt Genl

& 35436.16

BUREAU REFUGEES, FREEDMEN & ABANDONED LANDS
Office General Sup't. & Provost Marshal,
ARKANSAS RIVER DISTRICT,
Pine Bluff, Ark,, January 11th 1867

Sir

I have the honor to state that a freedman was shot in this city this morning, the ball passing through his body in the region of the left breast. I have presented the case for the action of the Civil Authorities - I think the action of the Civil Courts too uncertain to secure safety to freedmen - I will mention the case of Wm Harding and Dabozz as an instance -

Some two or three months ago a freedman came to my office with his clothes completely saturated with blood. and reported that Dabozz held him while Harding beat him over the head with a pistol - He brought five or six witnesses (white) who corroborated his statement in every particular, I sent them to a Magistrate who determined it was an assault with intent to kill and proposed the case go to the Grand Jury then setting - the case was presented to the Grand Jury and that is the last known about it - The accused are on their plantation raising cotton, and the freedman

bring out to different parties in various places no one will soon know where –

I respectfully request authority to determine that the Civil Authorities neglect to act, and to bring the case before the U.S. Court Commissioner, or to myself arrest the parties and send them to you to be subject to the orders of the Major General,

I cannot secure the safety of these people if such aggravated cases are allowed to go unnoticed –

Very respectfully
Your obt Servant
Wm Dawes –
Bvt Maj; Genl Supt –

Maj John Eyles A.A.A.G.
Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark.

L R. D. 115. (El. Vol 2/67.

BUREAU R. F. & A. L.
Office General Sup't. & Pro. Marshal,
Arkansas River District,
Pine Bluff, Ark., June 11th 1867.

DAWES,—W. J. Maj 21—

BREVET MAJ. CAPTAIN 23. V. R. C. GENERAL SUP'T.

States he has employed an attorney to prosecute in the case of Shooting a negro as he could not attend to it himself & the case was important & desires the approval of the Apt Genl

Asst

Fees for Prosecuting One hundred dollars

Bureau R F & A L
For Ark & Ind Dis.
Little Rock Ark
June 21. 1867

Respectfully returned to Bvt Maj Wm J Dawes, Genl Supt who will please forward a statement of the expense incurred in the employment of an attorney to conduct the within mentioned case giving the name of the attorney and the time for which he was employed.
By command of
Bvt Maj. Genl Ord
Asst Genl

Jno Tyler
Capt. U.S.A. Bvt Maj, A.A.A. Genl

B. 37-67

BUREAU REFUGEES, FREEDMEN & ABANDONED LANDS

Office General Sup't. & Provost Marshal,

ARKANSAS RIVER DISTRICT,

Pine Bluff, Ark,, January 11th 1867

Sir

I have the honor to report that I have employed an Attorney to prosecute the person accused of shooting the negro in this city this morning by virtue of the the last clause of Circular No 8 - War Dept July 5th 1866 -

The freedman is without means or friends and the case is one that will require much investigation that I could not give it myself. and if I had not so employed a person it would not have been done. the District Attorney is within reach -

I trust my action will be approved by the Assistant Commissioner -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servant
W. J. Davies
Bvt Maj. Genl Supt

Maj' Jesse Tyler A,A,G,D
Bureau R.F & A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Office Asst Commissioner
Little Rock Ark
January 21. 1867

Circular Letter

1

Stating that Officers in
Military service of the U. S
on duty in the Bureau as Supts
are allowed one room for
office and rooms in St. Cases of
that will prevent them from
commanding rations at 50 cts
or exhibiting Commutation for
quarters

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,
Office of Assistant Commissioner,

Little Rock, Ark., Jan 21 1867.

Circular Letter.

Sir:

Officers in the Military service of the United States on duty in this Bureau as Superintendents are hereby informed that they are allowed one room as office and that rooms in excess of this number as furnished by the Bureau occupied by themselves as sleeping rooms or quarters, deprives such officers of the privilege of commuting their rations at (50) fifty cents each collecting commutation for quarters

By command of
Bt. Majr. Lyle A.A.G. A.A.A. Gen'l

J. Taylor
Bt Maj. Wm J. Dawes
Capt. 1st U.S.C. Bt Major, U.S.
Genl Supt.
Pine Bluff
Ark
A.A.A. Genl.

No. 4.

Office Asst. Comr.
Little Rock Jan 21. '67

Special Orders No. 6

Assigns Maj. N. D. Hale to duty in charge of the Office of Asst. Supt. Ark Dist. during temporary absence of Maj Davis

1867

Rcd. Pine Bluff. Jan 25. 1867

Bureau Refugees Freedmen and A. C.
Ser. Arkansas 2nd District
Office Asst. Com. Little Rock Ark
Jan 21. 1867.

Special Orders }
No. 6. }

Extract.

1. Major William D. Hale. civilian Agent of this Bureau for Arkansas County is hereby assigned to duty at Pine Bluff in charge of the office of the General Superintendent Arkansas River District so far as the jurisdiction of that office pertains to the Counties of Arkansas & Jefferson.

This assignment to continue in force during the present temporary absence of Bt. Maj Genl. Vance Genl Supt.

Asst Genl Supt Redmond Superintendent at Napoleon Desha County will initial further orders report direct to this office

By Command of Bt Maj Genl. E. O. C. Ord Asst Com

Jno Fyfer
Capt & A.A.G.

Maj W. McHale
Asst Supt
Pine Bluff Ark

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Asst & Lnd Com
Jan 22. 1867

Tyler. Maj. Jno.
A. A. Genl.

Instructions in the
matter of applications for
transportation of Freedmen

63.

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,
Office of Assistant Commissioner,

Little Rock, Ark., June 22d 1865.

Major William D Hall
Asst Supt
Pine Bluff Ark
Major

I have the honor to return herewith, the application of J. B. Blackburn for the recommendation of the Assistant Commissioner, approved. The account in this case seems to be correct. I am ready to your communication of the 21st inst, asking instructions as to what security will be required under Par. 4. of Circulars No 4. of the Chief Quartermaster of this Bureau, I am directed by the Assistant Commissioner to state that you will take the bond of the applicant to the amount of $2,000. for each 100 men to be employed and transported to your District. Copy of such bond to accompany applicant. You should endorse upon the application the current rate of

troops in your District
I am very respectfully
Your Obt Servt

Jno Tyler
Capt 12th Pat Maj. Vols
a. a. a. Genl.

L.R.7.1867. B.R.F. & A.L.

St Joseph Louisiana
Dec 20th 1866

Jany 23/67
Bowie A.F. M.D.

Proposes to base his Franklin Estate to Freedmen for 1867 in lots or farms, & desires to have his proposition made known &c &c.

Head Qrs Dist of Miss
Bureau of R.F. & A.L.
Vicksburg Jan 25th 1867

Respectfully referred to Maj Genl Howard Commissioner &c with the request that he will circulate the information as widely as possible.

(Signed) Thos J. Wood
Brevet Maj Genl
Asst Commissioner &c.

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Washington
January 12th 1867

Official copy respectfully furnished Maj Genl E.O.C. Ord Asst. Comg for and for his information

Sgd R.P. Ketchum
Acting Asst Adjt Genl.

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
For Ark & Ind. Ter.
Little Rock Ark
Jan 28th 1867

Official copy respectfully furnished Maj Wm D. Hale Genl Supt Pine Bluff Ark. for his information

By command of
Bvt Maj Genl Ord
Asst Comg.

C. Inº Tyler
Capt V.R.C. Bvt Maj. Vols
A.A.A.G.

Franklin Care St Joseph La
December 28th 1866

Brevet Maj Genl Thos J. Wood. U.S.A.
Vicksburg

Dear Sir.

Allow me to say to you for the purpose of making if known that. I propose to lease (for the culture of Cotton, Corn and other products) to "Freedmen" for the year 1867. my Franklin Estate, in Lots or Farms, each Farm containing one hundred and seventy five acres cleared land. with the benifits of all the improvements on the Estate except those in my yard and garden. and can say, one hundred acres in each Lot or Farm thus divided, and now offered for lease, has never yet been under water, which you know is the first thing to consider in leasing lands in the Mississippi bottoms. The improvements on the estate are, a new Gin-house with forty horse power engine. new Gristmill, Cotton press, Gin stands, a large barn nearly finished. quarters for 80 laborers, Cisterns enough for the place, grass lots for the stock, I will take one third gross of what each squad of ten or twelve good laborers and six good mules to a farm, will make, and advance at market price the necessary supplies for the season. the supplies to

to be paid for out of the laborers portion of the crops. I will lease one or all the lots.

Yours Very Respectfully
(Signed) A. F. Bowie M. D.

Please direct as before to Ashwood Landing.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen &
War Dept. Washington Jan. 24
1867

Howard: Maj Gen. O. O.
Commissioner &c

Instructs agents of the
Bureau not to exact fees of
any character in the the
transaction of Business of
their office.
Also recommends that Contracts
be in writing &c

~~Copy this for Redmore~~

Rec'd Feb. 4 '67

War Department
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands
Washington Jan 24th 1865.

General

Hereafter & until further orders, no fees or charges will be exacted by Officers or Agents of the Bureau for services they may render in connection with contracts between freed people & their employers, either in the examination, approval, witnessing or registry of such contracts or otherwise.

Please instruct your subordinates to comply with this requirement. Labor contracts should be in writing. If possible persuade laborers & employers not to rely upon mere verbal agreements. They occasion much confusion. Bureau Agents are required to do all in their power to secure fair contracts for the freed people, & in offering their services for that purpose they should let it be understood that they will be rendered without charge to the parties concerned.

Very Respectfully

(Sgd) O. O. Howard
Major General Commissioner

Bt Maj Genl Ord
Asst Comy
Little Rock
Ark

Official copy respectfully furnished
for the information and guidance of
Wm D Asdale. Agt Supt at Pine Bluff
Ark and the agents in his district
By command of
- Bt Maj Genl & Asst Coms

Wm Sage
Bt Col & A.A.G.

Little Rock Ark
Feby 8th 1867

Bureau R. F. and A. L.
Office Asst. Comm
Little Rock, Ark
January 24. 1867

Ord. Maj. Genl. E. A. C.

Asst. Com. Bureau R. F. A. L.
Arkansas & Ind. Ter.

Communication to Lieut.
Taylor Supt. Ashley Co. stating
that he will cause to be
remond all the Freedmen
from that County, on creel
of outrages &c

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,
Office of Assistant Commissioner,

Little Rock, Ark., June 24. 1867.

Lieut. J. S. Taylor,
Supt. Freedmen
Ashley Co. Ark.

Lieut.

Your monthly narative report for December 1866. is received. A company of colored cavalry will be sent you in a short time, and you will quietly inform yourself of the habitations of the desperadoes and murderers in your district that they may be arrested. Take affidavits in each case. You will notify the wealthy land owners and planters, that if they do not interest themselves so as to put a stop to murders and outrages against soldiers, freedmen and northern men as reported by yourself, Capt Barker and others, and known to be practiced in Ashley County. I will send a force of colored cavalry to sweep the county and remove every freedperson from it, as a measure of safety to that class of people. I wish you to report to me, at what points steamboats should be sent to receive the families of freedmen, and how many boats it would take to remove

[illegible] of [illegible] the vicinity; also how many could take, and where they should rendezvous. You are authorized to furnish such freedpersons as desire to move, transportation, and will include in it, rations to their place of destination, which will probably be Jefferson County, Arkansas, where there are hundreds of planters who need this freedmen well, and who are applying daily for permission to bring them from remote States.

Notify the intelligent freedmen of this measure and state to the best men in the County that I will hold them responsible for your good treatment and have both the power and will to carry out my intentions.

Very respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
(Sgd) E. O. C. Ord.
Bt Major Genl U.S.A.
Assistant Commissioner.

Official copy respectfully furnished for the information and guidance of Major H.D. Hotchkiss Genl. Supt. Pine Bluff Ark. Planters in your District who are in need of hands, can exercise their own discretion about waiting for the freedpeople to come from Ashley to Jefferson Counties, or going to remote States for labor. The Asst. Commissioner expects in a very short time, to carry out the declarations of this letter.

By command of
Bt Major Genl E.O.C. Ord. Asst Comr.

M O Tyler
Capt & A.A.A.G. Bt Maj Vols
A.A.A.Genl.

Little Rock Ark
January 24th 1867

No. 5

Freedmen B. U. A. L.
Office Asst. Comr
Little Rock, Jan. 24 67

Maj. Gen. Fisk Comd
to
Lieut. D. S. Taylor
Supt. Freedmen Ashley Co.

States that rules outrages against Freedmen & Unionists cease he will sweep the County of Ashley of all Freedmen as a means of safety to them.

Rcd. Pine Bluff. Jan 30. 1867

5.

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,
Office of Assistant Commissioner,

Little Rock, Ark., Jan 24th 1867.

Lieut D. S. Taylor U.S.C.
Supt Hamburg.
Ashley County Ark.

Lieut

Your monthly narrative report for December 1866 is received. A company of colored cavalry will be sent you in a short time. You will quietly inform yourself of the habitations of the desperadoes & murderers in your district that they may be arrested. Take affidavits in each case. You will notify the wealthy landowners & planters, that if they do not interest themselves so as to put a stop to murders & outrages against soldiers, freedmen & northern men as reported by yourself, Capt Parsley & others, & known to be practised in Ashley County, I will send a force of colored cavalry to sweep the County & remove every freed person from it, as a measure of safety to that class of people. I wish you to report to me, at what points steamboats should be sent to receive the families of freedmen, & how many boats it would take to remove the whole

[illegible] how
[illegible] and where they
should rendezvous. I am authorized to furnish
such freed persons as desire to move transportation
and will include in if rations to their place
of destination, which will probably be Jefferson
County Arkansas, where there are hundreds of
planters who treat their freedmen well and who
are applying daily for permission to bring them
from remote States.

Notify the intelligent freedmen of
this measure and state to the best men in the
County that I will hold them responsible for
your good treatment, and have both the power
and will to carry out my intentions.

Very respectfully
Your. Obdt Servt
(Sgd) E.O.C. Ord
Bt Maj Genl U.S.A.
Assistant Commissioner

Official Copy
Thomas Page
Bt Col & A.D.C.
A.A.A.G.

Copies to be furnished to subsistent

LR 40. 67 = BR Ark & La.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Arkansas Riv. Dist
Pine Bluff. Jan 23/67

Jan 25/67
Hale. William D.
Gen. Supt. B. R. F. & A. L.

Asks instructions in regard to certain contracts made for a longer period than one year. –

R.F. & A.L. ARK. & IND. TER. JAN 25 1867 LITTLE ROCK

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
For Ark and Ind Ter.
Little Rock. Jan. 26/67.

Respectfully returned to Maj Wm D. Hale Genl Supt. Pine Bluff. Ark. with information as follows: The clause in Circular No 16. directing contracts to be made for not longer than one years, applies to contracts made and approved in this State. In cases where planters have contracted with freedmen in other States for part of years 1866 and the year 1867. and copy of the contracts is filed in the office of the Supts of the districts in which the freedmen are laboring, such contract will be held as valid, and will be enforced by the Agents of the Bureau for that District.

By command of
Bvt Maj. Genl Ord
Asst Comr

Jno Taylor
Capt 5 U S C. Cav & Maj Vol
A. A. A. Genl

E. 48.-67.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen and A.L.
Office Gen. Supt. Ark. Riv. Dist.
Pine Bluff. Ark. Jan 23d 1867

Major Jno. Tyler
A.A.G. B.R.F. and A.L.
Little Rock. Ark.

Major: I have to state that a question has been presented to me for adjudication in two several instances upon which I have much doubt in the apparently conflicting action of officials of the Bureau and orders bearing on the subject, and tho. necessity compelled a decision in these, I hasten to submit the point to you for instructions for guidance in future cases.

A large number of planters in this District during the past fall went to the Sea-board and Gulf States for additional force to assist in picking the cotton crop of last year - were at the expense of transportation from those states, and, as an indemnity, contracted with the Freedmen for

balance of the year, and also for 1867.
These contracts were duly approved by the
Agents of the Bureau for those States, but
have not, I believe, been filed in the local
Offices here. It is but just to the parties, so
operating to add, that on arrival here they
have uniformly raised the wages of the laborers
from the low prices of the eastern states to the
standard rates in this valley

In the instances referred to, the freedmen
have either voluntarily left their places of labor
at the end of the year, or have been enticed
away by designing men, who have persuaded
these people that their obligations were now at an
end. and they have accordingly made contracts
with other parties for the ensuing year.

Circular No. 16 dated Octo 26. 1865. directs that
"Contracts be made × × for not longer than
one year". Shall this limitation be
placed upon these cases or shall I hold
as valid, upon approval, said agreements for
the year 1867, and enforce them under the
orders of the Assistant Commissioner dated
March 1. 1866 / Circular No. 19.

I remain, Major,
Your obedient servant.
William D. Hale
Genl. Supt. Bureau R.F. and A.L.
Arkansas River District

Bureau Refugees R. F. A. L.
Chief Q. M. Office
Little Rock. Jan 29. 1867

Page. Henry
Lieut. Col. A. D. A.
A. A. G. Bureau

States that Maj. Davis
will act as Quarter Master
for the office of Ark. County —

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,
Quartermaster's and Disbursing Office,

Little Rock, Ark., Jany 29 1867.

Wm. D. Hale Esq
Price Bluff Ark

Sir

In reply to your communication of Jany 26th I would say that Major H. J. Dawes will report the service of yourself and your clerk, also the rent of your office, he will issue vouchers for same which will be paid at this office.

Major D. will also furnish and expend the Fuel and Lights for your office.

Horse hire will be paid as actual cost of Transportation, on vouchers form No 17 which must be accompanied by copy of order authorizing the performance of the journey.

The Expenses of Supts office at Price Bluff will be paid on Maj Dawes' vouchers.

Very Respy

Henry Page
Bvt Colonel

Cummins Plantation Ark

Jan 31. 1867

Kendall Smith, foreman

for Capt Morton

States that certain

freedmen under contract

with him, have left and

refuse to work with Dr Burrson

Cummins Plantation Ark Co January 31st 1867

Maj. W. D. Davis

Dr sir

I write to inform you that several of the Freed Men have left Capt E.C. Mortons Plantation that were under Contract for this year (1867) A Man by the name of Jacob Spencer Came with Dr. Brunsons Mule Team in the night and moved Jerry Ward. Mary Ward and Lucy David on to Dr. Brunsons Plantation Knowing they wer under Contract. I went to Dr Brunson and told him they wer under Contract with Capt E.C. Morton all the answer he gave me was. Shure the hands are Take them. but allowed them to go on to his place after I notifyed him they wer under Contract with Capt Morton. Neil Ward the Father of Jerry Says that Jerry Ward was not of age when he Signed the Contract I have several good Witnesss that Neil Ward gave his Consent for his Son Jerry Ward to Sign the Contract and told me he wanted his Son to Stay on Capt E C Mortons Plantation.

Names of hands on Dr Brunsons Plantation that are under Contract with Capt E.C. Morton

Jerry Ward. Mary Ward. Lucy Davis. And Neil Wiley

You will Oblige Capt E.C. Morton by having the above Freed Men Sent back to his Plantation

Yours Truly

Kendall Smith

Manager

Office Apt Comm.
Little Rock Ark.
Jan 31st 1867

Circular Letter

Desiring that Examinations be made
whether any of the rooms rented
by the Bureau at Pine Bluff are
used for sleeping rooms or quarters

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned [illegible],
FOR ARKANSAS AND INDI[illegible]TORY,
Office of Assistant Commis[illegible]

Little Rock, Ark., Jan'y 21 1867

Circular Letter

Sir

The Assistant Commissioner directs that you report to this office without delay whether any of the rooms rented by this Bureau at your station are occupied by yourself as sleeping rooms or quarters.

I am, very respectfully
Your obd't serv't.

Wm Page
Bv. Col. & A.C. M.
A.A.A.G.

To

Bt Maj Wm J Dawes
Capt 2nd Batt
Pine Bluff Ark

Office Asst Commissioner

Little Rock Ark

January 21st 1867

Sir

I have the honor to transmit
herewith the Report and Estimate
of Engineering Services in the
Construction of the Levee,
Hospital and Cemetery Grounds
at Pine Bluff Ark

#50

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,
Office of Assistant Commissioner,

Little Rock, Ark., Jan 21. 1867

Major W. D. Hale
Genl Supt R.C.
Pine Bluff Ark.

Major

You Assistant Commissioner directs that you render all assistance possible to Lieut Barton 28th U. S. Infantry in procuring evidence in the case of the arrested murderers Webb and that hereafter all attainable evidence be prepared and forwarded with the prisoners.

I am very respectfully
Your Obt Servt

Jno Eaton
Lieut & R.C. Bvt Maj & Vols
A. A. A. Genl.

Office A.A.A. Comm
Little Rock Ark
Feb 15th 1867

Page Brt Col Henry
A.D.C. A.G.

Smith vs Cockrill

The Asst Comm directs that enough Cotton be sold to pay the award providing Cockrill does not pay it. The party feeling aggrieved can bring action for trespass, &c

88

Bureau of Refugees Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,

FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,

Office of Assistant Commissioner,

Little Rock, Ark., July 13th 1867.

William D. Hale.

General Supt's &c

Pine Bluff. Ark.

Sir:

In the case of Anderson Smith. vs S. R. Cockrill. I am directed by the Assistant Commissioner, to instruct you as follows:

If Mr. Cockrill will not pay the Amount of the Award of the Court to the freedman Smith; You will sell a sufficient Amount of the Cotton held by you, to pay the Award. and turn the proceeds over to the freedman. Notify any parties who may feel aggrieved by such action, that they have redress by suing you for trespass. if they should Conside, and to have been Committed; you can then remove the case, if sued, to the U.S. Court here, and from thence the matter can by appeals be taken to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Assistant Commissioner want the rights of Agents of the Bureau, to act in such Cases decided before the Supreme Court. All the expenses of any

trial, if one is had. will be paid for you.

I am very respectfully

Yours Obt Servt.

Henry Doty

Bvt Col U S A 2. Mich

A. A. A. Genl

Bankhead Place
Feb 11th, 1867

Williams Rep

Asks for instructions
relating to Contracts,
States that freedmen
will not work if

Bankhead Peace
Aiken Co
Feby 11/67

Majr Hall
Supt Freedmans Bureau &c &c
Sir Bluffs

Dr Sir

You will see me a great deal
if you will send me by the bearer my
orders or instructions for the regulation of the
contracts between Employer and Freedmen.

Something must be done to get them to go
work, the season is advancing so rapidly
that we can will be able to make a crop
- the poor creatures are destitute and pitiable
& dangerous persons, - they have the idea now
if each one has not a copy of the contract
in his pocket he will be taken up and
sent to jail & the Magistrates &c - You will
do me a great favor if you can come down
to my place - as soon as I have gotten enough
hands to cultivate my place, the contracts will
be out written for your approval - Some of my

Bankhead Place
Feb 11th, 1867

Williams Robt

Asks for instructions
relating to Contracts.
States that freedmen
will not work &c

Supreme Court Library
Little Rock Ark.
Feb 7, 1867

Clendenin J J
Judge Supreme Court Ark

Opinion in regard to certain
cases as per request of U S
Commissioner Richmond -

Supreme Court Library
Little Rock, Ark.
Feby 1st 1867.

To

C. P. Redmond Esq
U. S. Commissioner.
East. Dist. of Ark.

Sir

In reference to the informal suggestions made by you to the Judges of the Supreme Court at Chambers this morning, I am directed to say, that we have no doubt in regard to our power to issue process in a case like the one referred to by you upon a proper showing and application made as prescribed by section 20 chapter 52 of the digest of this State. And we have no doubt that any Justice of Peace of this County, has the same power by virtue of Section 26 and the following ones of the same chapter, to act in a case like the one suggested by you, and to take all necessary steps in regard to it. But if any person will make the application as prescribed by Law to the Supreme Court, we will certainly take action on it although our time is very much occupied with the regular business of the Court.

(ours)

Respectfully yours
(Sgd) J. J. Clendenin.

The foregoing is a true copy of a letter received by me from Hon. J. J. Clendenin at the Seventh day of February A. D. 1867. Witness my hand and seal

(Sgd) Chas. P. Redmond
U. S. Commissioner.

A True Copy

Jno. Tulin
1st Lieut 43rd U. S. Inf
A. A. A. G.

Offic Supt B. R F & A.
Monticello Ark
Feb 6, 1867

Barker Capt & G. Supt

States that Pendleton
& Bridges of that County
ignored the Bureau and
refused to have their Contract
approved. Some of the hand
left their employ and contracted
with Thos Wells. P & B refused
to let said freedmen have
all of their things &c

Office Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Monticello Ark
February 6th 1867.

Maj Davies
Sup't B.R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark

Maj.

I have the honor to report to you the following facts. Messrs Pendleton & Bridges of this county, in the early part of the season ignored the Bureau & made contracts with Freedmen to suit themselves. On or about the 13th of January Stephen Holmes & Wife left said P. & B. & came to this office & made complaint against Mr Bridges one of the above firm & refused to return, whereupon Mr Thos Wells hired said Freedmen & had his contract recorded in this office. Said Wells went after Holmes effects which was denied him by Mr Bridges. & he returned without them.

On the 25th of January an agent of Messrs P. & B. came to this office & have their contract approved as soon of their hands had left them. I

refused to contract with Messrs B & P. for 3 of the Holmes family, & at that time the agent agreed to deliver up the personal property of the Holmes family Mr Wells went a second time for said things & he only received a part of them. & Mr Bridges informed him that Mr Pendelton was an intimate friend of yours. & by this means he would again get the Holmes family.

Hoping you will give this your earliest attention

I am Maj
Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
E G Baiker Capt &
Supt Freedmen

LR 115=67. B.R & A.L.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & C.
Office Gen. Supt. Ark & Riv Dists
Pine Bluff. Ark
February 5. 1867

Feby 11—

Hale, William D.
Supt. Bureau R. F. A. L.
Ark. Riv. Dists

Asks decision on the claim of J. D. Blackburn to hold service of certain Freedmen under contract with a partner - designation of Firm having been omitted by error

---

Gen -

One Enclosure

Will you inform me how to act in this case - if the Freedmen to whom

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.
FEB 6
1867

Bureau R. F. and A. L.
For Ark and 2nd Sec.
Little Rock Ark.
Feb 11 1867.

Respectfully returned to Wm D. Hale Genl Supt. who will cause the contract to be kept if the freedmen so understood it.

By command of
Bt. Maj. Genl. Ord.
Asst. Comy.

Henry Page
Bt Col & A.A.G. M
A.A.G.

E. 66-67

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A. L.
Office Gen. Supt. Work. Riv. Dist
Pine Bluff. Feb. 5. 1867

Bt. Col. Henry Page
A. A. M., A. A. A. G.
Little Rock. Ark.

Colonel: I enclose a copy of a contract filed in this office January 25-/67- Entered into between W. H. Pointer and certain freedmen in October 1866 for the remainder of the year and also for 1867.

Complaints has been made to me by Mr. J. D. Blackburn that a part of these hands have left the place and are at work on other plantations, and asks assistance of the Bureau to secure their return.

Referring to the contract, it is seen that there is no mention of a firm as party of the first part, or any indication that Mr. Blackburn has an interest in the labor of these people.

It appears however by statement of Mr. Pointer in person that Mr. Blackburn was a partner with himself in the season enterprise, and

had entire control of the place.- That he. (Mr P.) resided in Nashville Tenn., and. on representation of Mr Blackburn in October that additional force was needed, went from Nashville to Georgia contracted with and brought the Freedmen to the plantation. That he contracted with them for the firm - that they were informed that he was acting for himself and others. and that in the thoughtless Omission of the name of the firm there was no intention to prejudice the interests of Mr. Blackburn or other partners. That on arrival they were under the sole orders and direction of Mr Blackburn to their entire satisfaction. Mr. Pointer, on the first of the Year, withdrew from the Partnership, leaving with Blackburn all interests of this character.

I am not aware that the Freedmen have in any way objected to Mr Blackburn. but they set up the claim that their obligations ended with the Year and assert their consequent right to contract where they please.

The parties who have employed these people are aware of the terms upon which Mr. B seeks to hold their service. and have refused to give them up.

With reference to the clause binding the Employees for the year 1867, at the end of the Contract I have to add, that on the original contract submitted to me by Mr Pointer, it is apparently written by the hand of Major John Lenard Agent of the Bureau Approving it. and further that all the hands remaining on the place - about one third of the number,- state positively that this was understood and agreed to by all.

Upon these facts the question arises, Can Mr. Blackburn sustain his claim upon the labor of the Freedmen, parties to the Contract?

Upon his earnest request I submit the case for the decision of the Assistant Commissioner.

I remain, Colonel,
Very respectfully,
William D. Hale
Supt. Bureau R. F. & A. L.

Mulberry Crow Ark April 2. 67

Agt Freedmans Bureau

Gents

My former partner Col Blackburn wishes me to State to you the Conditions of some Hands hired by Myself in Georgia last fall I hired the Freedmen in My own name for the use of this place and as they have not paid offenses and left- in fact ~~Col Blackburn~~ has the Right and My full Consent to the Boys Services for this year as per Contract with me having Paid the for the offenses of said hands and they have not fulfilled the Contract as you will redily perceive by reference to the papers approved in Georgia & reapproved by your Selves in Pine Bluff

Very Respectfully

W. H. Pointer

Contract of W.H. Pointer
with certain Freedmen
for the year 1866-7—

Bureau R. F. A. L.
In Jefferson Co. Ark.
Pine Bluff Jan 25. 1867

Filed this day by
J. D. Blackburn

LR 113-64-BRF&AL

William D. Hale
Act. Supt. Bureau R.F.A.L.
for Jefferson County

B.R.F.A.L. DD. ARK. & IND. T.
FEB
8
1867
LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

Know all men by these presents, That Wm. B. Pointer of Jefferson County State of Arkansas held and firmly bound to The U. S. The United States of America by these presents in This Contract; That he is to furnish the persons whose names are subjoined (Freed laborers), quarters fuel healthy and substantial rations and pay said laborers one third of their wages at the end of each month and the remainder at the expiration of this Contract all time lost from labor is to be deducted from wages as will provisions Medical attendence furnished at the Laborers expence. The said persons are to labor faithfully on his plantation Six days during the week in the ordinary customary on a plantation. Said persons to forfeit in whole or in part their wages or their interest in the Crop in case the violate This Contract. All differences to be referred to an officer or agent of the Bureau of Refugees Freedmen and Abandoned Lands for adjustments.

No	Names	ages	Rate of Wages per Month Dollars	Cts	No	Names	ages	Rate of Wages per Month Dollars	Cts
1	Philip Evans his X mark	42	15	00	16	Anderson Hulsey his X mark	25	15	00
2	Andrew Right his X mark	38	15	00	17	Bill Fingerson his X mark	25	15	00
3	Hyram Philips his X mark	15	9	00	18	Polly Polen her X mark	22	6	00
4	Alba Philips his X mark	15	9	00	19	Jim Jackson his X mark	29	15	00
5	Sandy Philips his X mark	14	6	00	20	Aaron Bowden his X mark	21	12	00
6	Robert Philips his X mark	16	10	00	21	Henry Green his X mark	25	15	00
7	Louisa her X mark & Calvin Philips his X mark	10 & 6	5 each		22	Minor Butler his X mark	36	15	00
8	Elias Right his X mark	34	15	00	23	Bill Johnson his X mark	22	15	00
9	Abraham Avery his X mark	19	15	00	24	Turner Wilis his X mark	25	15	00
10	Frank Avery his X mark	21	15	00	25	Henry Davis his X mark	25	15	00
11	Lewis Roberts his X mark	22	15	00	26	Ed. Davis his X mark	16	15	00
12	Jno Foster his X mark	22	15	00	27	George Johnson	22	15	00
13	Marsh Kane his X mark	21	15	00	28	Henry Hunter	20	15	00
14	Dick Vann his X mark	22	12	00	29	Jackson McGee his X mark	19	15	00
15	Brad Ware his X mark	25	15	00	30	Jim Holden his X mark	24	15	00
					31	Jno McKissack his X mark	16	10	00
					32	Mat Covington his X mark	17	10	00
					33	Henry Hunter his X mark	24	15	00

~~J. L. Leonard~~
~~Bvt Maj U.S.A.~~

(Signed) John Leonard
Bvt Maj U.S.A. A.A.A. Comr

This Contract is to Commence with this date and close with the year 1867. Given in duplicate at Atlanta Ga
This 23d day of October 1866
Witness

Contract of W.H. Printer with certain Freedmen for the year 1867

Bennie R. Bass
Wm. Jefferson Co. Ark
Ben Bluff Jan 25/67

Filed Thos dun by
A. Williamson

William H. Hinds
Capt. & A.A.G. Bureau R.F.&A.L.
for Jefferson County

MISS. ARK. & IND. TER'Y. R.R.
FEB 8 1867
LITTLE ROCK

Office Supt B R P & A L
Napoleon Ark
Feb 3rd 1867

Pickens J C Lt A C
Supt B R P & A L

Transmits Copies of
Reports made to B R P. &
A L

Office Supt B. R. F. & A. L.,
Napoleon Ark Feb 5th 1867

Bvt. Maj. W. J. Dawes,
Asst. Supt Ark. River Dist.
&c, Bureau R. F. & A. L.,
Maj.

I have the honor to enclose herewith
copies of my returns to the Bureau R. F. & A. L.,
for the month of January.

I would state that I have for the last
two months made a property return to
the Bureau for fuel lights &c, and would
respectfully inquire if you desire a copy of
that

I have the honor to be Maj
Very Respectfully
Your Obedt Servt
J. C. Prudence
2nd Lieut 9th U S Cav
and Supt B R, F. & A L

Bureau R. F. and A. L.
Office Asst. Com.,
Little Rock, Feb 2
67.

Page. Henry
A. 2. Ark a, a, 4.

States that a Govt. Team
has been turned over to
Lieut. Barton for use at
Pine Bluff.

80.

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,
Office of Assistant Commissioner,

Little Rock, Ark., Febx 2nd. 1867.

Major Wm D. Hale.
Genl Supt R
Pine Bluff. Ark

Major.

In reply to your request of the 29th ultmo.
for a Government team for use at Pine Bluff
I am directed by the Assistant Commissioner
to inform you, that a four mule team complete,
has been ordered turned over to Lieut Barton,
Commanding Post at Pine Bluff.

I am very respectfully
Your Obt Servt.

Wm D Fay
Bvt Lt Col & A G. to
A, A, A. G.

Bureau R. F. A. L.
Office Asst. Comr
Little Rock, Feb. 2/67

Paym. Henry
A 2 M'G A.A.A.G.

Forwards three Copies
of the Bureau Officers Manual
for the use of Agents in the
District.

77

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,
Office of Assistant Commissioner,

Little Rock, Ark., July 2 1867

Sir.

I have the honor to inform you that I have forwarded to you by mail - this day, three copies of the Bureau officers manual. You will please acknowledge receipt of the same and furnish each agent in your district with a copy.

I am very respectfully
Your Obt Servt

Thos Page
Bvt Col & A A Gen

To

Bvt Maj Wm J. Davis
Supt
Pine Bluff
Ark

LR 97-67-BRF&AL

BUREAU R. F. & A. L.

Office General Sup't. & Pro. Marshal,

Arkansas River District,

Pine Bluff, Ark., Feb. 1st 1867.

Hale. ~~William D.~~

~~DAWES, W. J.~~ March 1

~~BREVET MAJ. CAPTAIN 23. V. R. C.~~ GENERAL SUP'T.

Submits statement of the seizure of Cotton raised by Wash. Churchill (Col.) and others to secure the wages of laborers and asks orders to sell the same for their benefit. —

FEDERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE LITTLE ROCK, ARK. FEB 5 1867

3 - 6 - 3 - 67 -

Bureau R. F. & A. L.

For Ark & Ind. Dis.

Little Rock Ark

March 1. 1867

Respectfully returned to Brevt Major Wm. J. Dawes, Agent at Pine Bluff Ark. This case was reported, and the last instructions sent, under the belief that it was a new case and being acted on by Agent Hale. If the civil courts are acting on it and are disposed to do justice Let them act.

By command of

Bvt Maj Genl Ord:

Asst Comr.

Jno Taylor

1st Lieut 43d U. S. Infantry.

Actg Asst Adjt Genl.

S. 95. 67.

LR 97-67-B1[illegible]

BUREAU R. F. & A. L.

Office Yeneral Sup't. & Pro. Marshal,

Arkansas River District,

Pine Bluff, Ark., Feb. 1st 1867.

Hale. ~~William D.~~ ~~DAWES, W. H.~~ March 1—

~~Brevet Maj. Captain 23. V. R. C.~~ General Sup't.

Submits statement of the seizure of Cotton raised by Nash. Churchill (Col.) and others to secure the wages of laborers and asks orders to sell the same for their benefit.—

FEB 5 1867 R.F.&A.L. LITTLE ROCK

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Ex. Ark and Ind Ter
Little Rock Feb. 11th 1867.

Respectfully returned to W. D. Hale. Genl Supt. Pine Bluff Ark.

You will after a hearing of the case, taking testimony under oath and listening to such claimants as may appear on due notice being given them act as justice may dictate, on the principle that the lien of the laborers is the best: If after a hearing you find that the laborers is entitled to his wages, and there is nothing but the cotton to satisfy his claim; sell the cotton, and turn over such proceeds as will satisfy him. Notify the other claimants that they have redress by suing you for trespass if one has been committed; you can cause to remove the case to the U S

[illegible] there and from [illegible] matters can by appeals be taken to the U.S Supreme Courts. I wants the right of Agents of the Bureau to act in such cases decided before the Supreme Courts. All expenses of the trial if one is had, will be paid for by you.

E. I. C. Ord —
Bt Maj Genl U.S.A.
Asst Comis.

E. 69-67

37 20 2 67 Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark 2/24/67

Respectfully returned with request to be informed if the above instructions are to be qualified by

U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH.

Dec 31 1866

By Telegraph from Little Rock 31 1866.

To Maj Wm J Lawrs

In case of Churchill
Freedman consult U.S.
Commissioner Williams
If you find the State laws
give the laborer the same rights
& recover that would be
given to white laborers and
that the Freedmans testimony
would be received by the courts
you will let the law take its
course

By Command Brvt Gen Ord
Jno Tyler

54 W 54 Ord

...ment communicating the ...
...posing certain forms of the labor laws ...
...settled with his former employer and ...
...more profitable labor ...
...on other plantations. ...
...on new ones. Such ...

Office General Sup't. & Provost Marshal,

ARKANSAS RIVER DISTRICT,

Pine Bluff, Ark,, February 1 1867

Colonel Henry Page

A. A. A. G. Bureau.

Little Rock. Ark.

Colonel: Early last year a colored man named Washington Churchill rented a small tract of land of Mr. Harris on Bayou Bartholomew, Jefferson Co. — contracted with other Freedmen for the year, and after very indifferent effort thro. the season, almost entirely failed — raising but three bales of cotton. About the Commencement of the picking season some of the laborers were settled with in some manner and sought more profitable labor on other plantations.

Jim new, Dick Trotter and Elic Jones, however continued work till the crop was gathered.

Washington had during the season mortgaged the crop for supplies for his force, and being hopelessly in debt, also left about Christmas — abandoning all attempt to settle the seasons enterprise —

Early in January the Mortgagee, to secure something of the debt incurred by Washington hired on two (2) bales of the cotton - the third going for rent, and at this juncture the case was reported to me. I immediately seized these two bales to secure the wages of the two men above named, and have the same in store at this place.

After careful inquiry, I am satisfied that there are no other laborers having demands against this cotton save Dick and Elsie. and that the proceeds of these will but partially satisfy their claims. They were to have received One Hundred and Fifty Dollars each for the years work.

I therefore respectfully request the order of the Assistant Commissioner to sell the said cotton and to pay the proceeds to the named freedmen.

I remain, Colonel,
Very respectfully &c
William D. Hale
Act. Supt. Bureau Jefferson County

The circumstances connected with this case in the opinion of Genl Supt of Dec 31. 1866 no reply to any communications of Dec 27. This matter can be adjusted in the Civil Courts without injustice on account of the.
Mtf Sawyer
Act Asst. Adj. Gen'l Supt

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Officer Asst. Comr
Little Rock. Feb. 1/67

Page. Henry
A. A. M., 2nd A. A. A. G.

Authorizes
removal of cotton from the
"Byrd place" sufficient to
[illegible]
Smith. Col.

Ref'd—

Ref'd Office Asst Supt Freedmen Bureau Feb 6 '67

74 Bureau of [illegible] Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,
Office of Assistant Commissioner,
[illegible] Rock, Ark., Feb. 1st 1867.

Major Wm D. [illegible]
Genl Supt &c
Pine Bluff. Ark.

Major.

In reply to yours request of the 30th ult- for an order to remove the cotton held under guard on the Byrd places to Pine Bluff for storage, I am directed by the Assistant Commissioner to authorize you to remove it to Pine Bluff. and store under guard a sufficient number of bales of said cotton to pay the award to Anderson Smith.

I am very respectfully.
Your Obt Servt.
Henry Page.
Bvt Col & A. A. G.
A. A. A. G.

No. 22.

Voucher No.----Abstract B,

CONTINGENT EXPENSES.

In the month of----186

Dollars,---- 100

No. 22.

The United States,

On account of R., F. and A. L.

To Henry Hardesty Dr.

DATE.		DOLLARS.	CENTS.
Jan 31st 1867	For Rent of House for Quarters of A. A. Surg. in Bureau R F & A L at Pine Bluff Ark from Jan 1st to Jan 30th 1867 inclusive at Thirty ($30) Dollars per month	30	00
		30	00

I Certify on Honor, That the above account is correct and just, and that the services were rendered as stated ann that they were necessary for the Public Service, as per my report of "Persons and Articles" for: January 1867.

W J Dawes Capt 23 USC
Bvt Maj & Cml Subs

APPROVED and Payment ordered:

Assistant Commissioner.

RECEIVED at ..... the ..... of ..... 186 of ..... Bureau R., F. and A. L., Dollars, and ..... Cents in full of the above account.

(SIGNED IN TRIPLICATE.)

Henry Hardesty

No. 2?.

Voucher No.....Abstract B,

CONTINGENT EXPENSES.

In the month of.....186 .

Dollars,.....100

No. 22.

The United States,

On account of R., F. and A. L.

To Henry Harding Dr.

DATE.		DOLLARS.	CENTS.
Jan 31st 1867	Rent of House for Quarters of A. A Surgeon Bureau R F & A L at Pine Bluff Ark from Jan 1st to Jan 30th 1867. inclusive at Thirty (30) dollars per month	30	00
		30	00

I Certify on Honor, That the above account is correct and just, and that the services were rendered as stated and that they were necessary for the Public Service, as per my report of "Persons and Articles" for January 1867.

Wm J Dawes. Capt 23. USC
Act Maj & Chief Supt

APPROVED and Payment ordered:

.....

Assistant Commissioner.

RECEIVED at ..... the ..... of ..... 186 of

..... Bureau R., F. and A. L.,

Dollars, and ..... Cents in full of the above account.

(SIGNED IN TRIPLICATE.)

Henry Harding

No. 22.

Voucher No.----Abstract B,

CONTINGENT EXPENSES.

In the month of ..... 186 .

Dollars, ... 100

Bureau A. & I. L.

2 M. & Duty office

Little Rock Mch 8. 67.

Reply returned to Br Maj

H. J. Dawes.

Attention is called to in-

dorsement on voucher of Hay

Harding for rent of rooms

during the months of January

1867, for acty asst Surg J. H.

Quinn.

101. E.M.C. Acting asst

No. 22.

The United States,

On account of R., F. and A. L.

To Henry Harding Dr.

DATE.		DOLLARS.	CENTS.
Feb 28th 1867	For Rent of House for Quarters of A. A. Surgeon B. R. F. & A. L. at Pine Bluff Ark from Feb 1st to Feb 28th 1867 inclusive at thirty (30) dollars per month	30	00
		30	00

I Certify on Honor, That the above account is correct and just, and that the services were rendered as stated and that they were necessary for the Public Service, as per my report of "Persons and Articles" for February 1867.

Wm Dane, Capt Co D 23 USC
Bvt Maj Genl Supt
Asst Comr

APPROVED and Payment ordered:

Assistant Commissioner.

RECEIVED at ..... the ..... of ..... 186 of

..... Bureau R., F. and A. L.,

Dollars, and ..... Cents in full of the above account.

(SIGNED IN TRIPLICATE.)

Henry Harding

No. 22.

Voucher No.——Abstract B.

CONTINGENT EXPENSES.

In the month of 186

Dollars, ... 100

No. 22.

The United States,

On account of R., F. and A. L.

To Henry Harding Jr.

DATE.		DOLLARS.	CENTS.
Feb 28th 1867	For Rent of House for Quarters of A. A. Surgeon B.R.F.&A.L. at Pine Bluff Ark from Feb 1st to Feb 28th 1867 inclusive at thirty (30) dollars per month	30	00
		30	00

I Certify on Honor, That the above account is correct and just, and that the services were rendered as stated and that they were necessary for the Public Service, as per my report of "Persons and Articles" for: February 1867

Wm Davis Capt & A.D.C. & A.A.

Bvt Maj Genl Supt

Asst Com'r R. F. & A. L.

APPROVED and Payment ordered:

Assistant Commissioner.

RECEIVED at ..... the ..... of ..... 186 of

..... Bureau R., F. and A. L.,

Dollars, and ..... Cents in full of the above account.

(SIGNED IN TRIPLICATE.)

Henry Harding

No. 22.

Voucher No.——Abstract B.

CONTINGENT EXPENSES.

In the month of 186

Dollars, ... 100

No. 22.

The United States,

On account of R., F. and A. L.

To Henry Harding Dr.

DATE.		DOLLARS.	CENTS.
Feb 28th 1867	For Rent of House for Quarters of A. A. Surgeon B.R.F. & A.L. at Pine Bluff Ark from Feb 1st to Feb 28th 1867 inclusive at thirty (30) dollars per month	30	00
		30	00

I Certify on Honor, That the above account is correct and just, and that the services were rendered as stated and that they were necessary for the Public Service, as per my report of "Persons and Articles" for. February 1867

Mf Dowes Capt & A.A.G.
Bvt Maj Genl Supt
Bureau R. F. & A. L.

APPROVED and Payment ordered :

Assistant Commissioner.

RECEIVED at ..... the ..... of ..... 186 of

..... Bureau R., F. and A. L.,

Dollars, and ..... Cents in full of the above account.

(SIGNED IN TRIPLICATE.)

Henry Harding.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen &c.
Office Supt. Arkansas Co.
Fair Dale Feb. 28. 1867

Hale. William D
Supt. Bureau R. F. A. L.
for Arkansas County

Reports the expenses of
the Bureau for Arkansas Co
for February 1867

Bureau Refugees Freedmen and A.L.
Office Supt. Arkansas County.
Fair Dale Feb. 28. 1867

Major W. J. Dawes
Gen. Supt. Ark. Ref. Disk.
Pine Bluff. Ark.

Sir: In obedience to your instructions, I have the honor to state that the expenses incurred for the Bureau R. F. and A. L. for the month of February have been as follows:
— For the salery of myself - One Hundred Dollars
of my clerk Lieut. E. A. Douglas One Hundred Dollars
for rent of Office - Hire of one room provided by
Capt Jas. M. Dennis of Pine Bluff. Twenty Dollars
Fuel for one fire, one cord - Four Dollars
and for lights (since Jan 15th) One Dollar.
in the aggregate amounting to Two Hundred &
Twenty five Dollars.

Very respectfully. Major
Your obt. servant
William D. Hale
Supt. Bureau for Ark. R. F.

Office Asst Commissioner
Little Rock Feb 27th 1867

Tyler Lt John A.A.A.G
Bureau R.F.& A.L.

States that arrangement have
been made to draw supplies for
R.F.L. Hospital from the A.C.S. at
Pine Bluff. on requisitions approved
by the Asst of the Bureau & Post Commander

114

Bureau of Refugees Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,

FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,

Office of Assistant Commissioner,

Little Rock, Ark., Feby 27th 1867.

Bt Maj Wm J Dames,

2nd Lieut 43rd U. S. Infantry,

Agent, Pine Bluff, Ark

Major,

By direction of the Assistant Commissioner I have the honor to inform you that arrangements have been made for the Commissary Subsistence needed for the Refugee and Freedmens Hospital at Pine Bluff, to be drawn from the A. C. S. at the Post of Pine Bluff on returns approved by yourself and the Post Commander.

I am very respectfully,

Your Obt Servt,

Jno Tyler

1st Lieut 43d U.S. Infantry,

Actg Asst Adjt Genl.

No. 22.

The United States,

On account of R., F. and A. L.

To Henry Harding D

DATE.		DOLLARS.	CENTS.
Jan 31st 1867	For Rent of House for Quarters of A. A. Surgeon Bureau R.F.W. & L. at Pine Bluff Ark from Jan 1st		

Office Asst Commissioner
Seattle Wash Feb 27, 1867

Tyler Lt Jno A A A G
Bureau R. F & A.s

Directs that in the case of
Smith V.S Cockrill the cost be
itemized and forwarded to the
Asst Commr.

115.

Bureau of Refugees Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,

FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,

Office of Assistant Commissioner,

Little Rock, Ark., Feb 27th 1867.

1st Maj. Wm J Dawes.
2nd Lieut 43rd U. S. Infty
Agent Pine Bluff Ark.

Major,

Referring to the case of Smith vs Cockrill the Assistant Commissioner desires you to forward without delay an itemized account of the costs of suit.

I am very respectfully,
Your Obt Servt,

Jno. Taylor
1st Lieut 43rd U. S Infantry,
Actg Asst Adjt Genl.

L R 248-67. B R F & A L

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Feb 26th 1867
March 1—

Dawes. Wm. J. Bvt Maj
Genl Supt

Enquiries if he is expected
to furnish transportation
of two Children on the
Fris plan, to Dallas Co,
if the statements in the
letter of Maj Tyler of the
19th inst are found
to be correct—

B.R.F. & A.L. MO. ARK. IND. TER. & LITTLE ROCK.
MAR 1 1867

42-6.3.67

Bureau R. F. and A. L.
For. Arks. and Ind. Ters.
Little Rock. Arks.
March 1st 1867.

Respectfully returned
to Bvt. Maj. Wm. J. Dawes. Agent
Pine Bluff. Arks. Transporta-
tion will, if necessary, be
furnished and paid for by
this Bureau to enable these
children to join their mothers.

By command of
Brevet Major General Orde.
Asst Commissioner

Jno Tyler
1st Lieut 45th U. S. Infty
& A.A.G. & A.A. Adjt Genl.

Pine Bluff Ark 26 Feb 67
Bureau R. F. & A. L.

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th inst requesting the two Children on the Fris place, & to enquire if it is the desire of the Apt Comr that I provide transportation for the children if I find the reports correct - I make this enquiry in advance, in order that no time may be lost when the facts are ascertained -

I shall be obliged to pass the Fris place in a few days on other business, & will at that time make the investigation -

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servant
Wm J Dames. Post Mas
& Sub Supt

Maja John Eyler A.A.G.
Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock.
Ark.

Office Asst. Commissioner
Little Rock Ark
February 21, 1867

Gen Fisher Lt 43 v126
CAGO Bureau 11 P 92

Transmit thirty copies of
Circular No 5 Current Series
One Copy for each Magistrate
in the District

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,
Office of Assistant Commissioner,

Little Rock, Ark., February 21 1867

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I have this day mailed to your address, (30) thirty copies of Circular No 5 Current Series. The Assistant Commissioner directs that you send a copy to the Civil magistrates in your district

I am very respectfully
Your Obt Servt

Jno. Tyler
1st Lieut 4th U.S. Infty.
A.A.A.G.

To.

Bt Major Wm J. Dawes.
Genl Superintendent
Pine Bluff Ark

Hd Qrs Post of Pinos Bluff

Pinos Bluff Ark

Feby 19th 1867

Barton St J. Mc L

Comd'g Post

Protests against
the burial of any
person having died of
a Contagious disease being
interred in the Cemetery
used for the Burrial
of Federal Soldiers

Hd Qrs. Post of Pms Bluff
Pms Bluff Ar16.
February 19th, 1867.

Post Major J. W. Davis
Supt F. & Ad A. L.

Sir.

Having been informed by yours of that a corpse is awaiting interment at the Hospital under your charge which died of small pox, and understanding that the burying ground intended to be used by you in the present instance is the one where Federal Soldiers are already buried, I have the Honor to inform you that the bodies of the Miss Soldiers there interred are about to be removed to the National Cemetery, and to protest against your

there burying any person who
died of small Pox or any Contagious
Disease

I am Sir
Very Respectfully
Your Obedt Servt
W. Lazelle
2d Lieut 28 Infty
Cmdg Post.

No. 6

Bureau R. F. A. L.
Office Supt. and Dis
Paul Bluff Feb 18. 1867

Dance. N. J.
Maj. & Lieu. Supt-

Having assumed his
duties ~~as~~ Lieu. Supt.
directs Maj. Hale to
proceed to his station
in Alabama Co.

Rec'd. Pine Bluff Feb. 18. 1867

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Offic General Superintendent
Pine Bluff Arkansas.
February 18th 1867

Sir.

In compliance with orders from the War Department I have resumed my duties in this Office thereby relieving you from further service here - You will proceed without delay to your Station in Arkansas & apply to the Asst Comr at Little Rock for an order to cover the cost of transportation

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servant
Wm J Dawes.
Bvt Maj. Genl. Supt.

Maja Wm D Hale. Supt
Bureau R. F & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark -

LR 229-67-BHA.G.L.

Pine Bluff Ark
Feb 17. 1867.

Feby 27—

Dawes, Bt Maj W. J.
Lieut 43rd Inf

Requests an order to make a trip from Pine Bluff to Red Fork, Ind. Ter. and return and from Pine Bluff to Little Rock and return to cover a journey he made before he went to New York

FEB 27 1867 LITTLE ROCK ARK

41-6-3.67.

Bureau A. G. & I. G.
For Ark & Ind Ter,
Little Rock, Ark
Feby 27. 1867.

Respectfully returned to Bt Maj. Wm. J. Dawes, 2nd Lieut 43rd U.S. Infantry, Aquet Pine Bluff, Ark. Accounts for travel has in this and similar cases, will be made in accordance with Paragraph 1111 Revised Army Regulations and no presentation to this office will be allowed.

By command of
Bt Major General Pope.
Asst Commissioner.

Jno. Tyler
1st Lieut 43rd U.S. Infantry,
Actg Asst Adjt Genl.

S. 43. 67.

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Pine Bluff Arkansas
February 17th 1867.

Sir

I have the honor to request an order to make a trip from this place to Red Fork Desha Co & return - thence to Little Rock and return, to cover a journey made before my departure to New York. The journey was necessary to transact business of importance connected with the Bureau -

Very respectfully
your Obt Servant
Wm J Dennis - Capt & R.C.
Bvt Maj Genl Staff

Major John Tyler a.a.g.
Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark -

Office Asst Commissioner
Little Rock Ark
Feb 15th 1867

Col E.O.C Brvt Maj Genl
Asst Commissr

States that the guilt of
the Ku Klux of murder in 1865 was
established in the opinion of
the Comm. but the crime was com-
mitted before the passage of the Civil
Rights Bill and the Comm. had no
jurisdiction - He can be arrested
and tried by the State Courts
upon the affidavit of one or more
witnesses either white or black

72

Bureau of Refugees Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,

FOR ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,

Office of Assistant Commissioner,

Little Rock, Ark., [illegible] 1867.

William D. Webb
Gaol Sulphur
Pine Bluff Arkansas

Sir.

I enclose a copy of a letter from one of the Judges of the Supreme Court. The guilt of Webb of the murder in 1866, was established in the opinion of the Commissioner, but the offence was committed before the passage of the Civil Rights Bill, and the U.S. Court could not try him under that act, hence his release. He can, however, be arrested and tried by the State Courts as enclosed letter shows, and the Judge only requires some person to appear before him and make affidavit of the offence. Please procure some white or black person who can do so and send or bring him or her to this place as soon as practicable. Keep an account of expences which I will pay. Webb was released during my absence. He would have been kept in confinement had I known of the

condition of the case.

I am very respectfully
Yours Obt Servt.

E.O. Ord
Bt Maj Genl. U. S. A
Assistant Commissary

No. 22.

Voucher No.____ Abstract B,

CONTINGENT EXPENSES.

In the month of February 1867.

Dollars,	100
Bureau R. F. and A. L.	
2 Nd. Dirby office	
Little Rock Mch 7. 67.	
Respy returned - dis-	
approved.	
Bt Col Jas A. Smith	
Surg in Chief Dept R.	
F and A L for Ark, and Ter'y	
States that quarters are	
not allowed by the Con-	
tract with Surg	2 Nt.
Dunn	
In my letter authorizing	

quarters to be hired.
Was under the impression that an Actg Asst Surg of the Bureau R. F and A. L. was entitled to the same allowances as an acty asst Surg of the U S army.

Jonny Page
Bt Col Dasm

100 Ex 1867

Leave to Dr Dunn

	to Jan 30th. 1867. inclusive at		
	Thirty (30) dollars per month	30	00
		30	00

I Certify on Honor, That the above account is correct and just, and that the services were rendered as stated ann that they were necessary for the Public Service, as per my report of "Persons and Articles" for. January 1867.

Brt Maj Genl Supt

APPROVED and Payment ordered:

_____

Assistant Commissioner.

RECEIVED at..... .....the.....of.....186 of

.....Bureau R., F. and A. L.,

Dollars, and.....Cents in full of the above account.

(SIGNED IN TRIPLICATE.)

Henry Harding

Roll 19

Target 3

SUBORDINATE FIELD OFFICES
Pine Bluff (Superintendent of Arkansas River District)

Reports of Persons and Articles Hired
July 1866–Feb. 1867

Pine Bluff

REPORT

OF

PERSONS AND ARTICLES

EMPLOYED AND HIRED

at Pine Bluff Ar

During Month of July 1866

By Wm J Dawes 2d Lieut & A.A.Q.M.
Asst Supt Asst Rens Ofr

1866

No. 2.

REPORT OF PERSONS AND ARTICLES, *employed and hired at* Pine Bluff Ark *during the month of* July 1866,

By Brvt Maj Wm J Dawes Supt &c

Running Numbers.	No. of each class.	Names of Persons and Articles.	Designation and Occupation.	Service during the Month. From	To	Days	Rate of Compensation. Dollars.	Cents	Day Mth. or	Date of contract, agreement or entry into service.	By whom owned.	Amount of rent or pay in the month. Dollars	Cents	REMARKS showing by whom the buildings were occupied and how the men were employed during the month. [Transfers and discharges will be noted under this head.]	Time and amount due and remaining unpaid. From	To	Dollars	Cents
1	1	Howell Rowe	Office	6	31	25	20	00	mn	July 6th	M Williams	16	66	Office Supt R&F &c	July 6	July 31	16	66
2		Geo H Hawley	Clerk	6	31	25	60	00	"	"	"	50	00	Clerk in office of Genl Supt R&F &c	" 6	" 31	50	00

No. 2.

REPORT

OF

PERSONS AND ARTICLES

EMPLOYED AND HIRED

at Pine Bluff ark

During Month of August 1866

By Wm J Davis Brt Maj
& Qml Supt ark Riv Dis

No. 2.

RETURN OF PERSONS AND ARTICLES, *employed and hired at* Pine Bluff Ark *during the month of* August 1866;

By Bvt Maj Wm J Daniel Asst Supt R&F

Running Number.	No. of each class.	Names of Persons and Articles.	Designation and Occupation.	Service during the Month. From	To	Days	Rate of Compensation. Dollars.	Cents	Day Mth. or	Date of contract, agreement or entry into service.	By whom owned.	Amount of rent or pay in the month. Dollars	Cents.	REMARKS showing by whom the buildings were occupied and how the men were employed during the month. [Transfers and discharges will be noted under this head.]	Time and amount due and remaining unpaid. From	To	Dollars	Cents
1	1	Evans, Room	Office	1	31	31	20	00	mo	July 6th	M Williams	20	00	Office of Asst Supt R&F	July 6	Augt 31	66	66
2	1	Leo H Hawley	Clerk	1	31	31	60	00	"	" 6		60	00	Clerk in office of Asst Supt R&F	" 6	" 31	110	00

No. 2.

REPORT

OF

PERSONS AND ARTICLES

EMPLOYED AND HIRED

at Pine Bluff Arkansas

During Month of Sept 1866

By Wm J. Davies Bvt Maj
& Genl Supt Arkansas
River Orders

No. 2.

RETURN OF PERSONS AND ARTICLES, employed and hired at Pine Bluff Arkansas during the month of Sept 1866,

By Wm J Davies Brvt Maj & Gen Supt

Running Numbers.	No. of each class.	Names of Persons and Articles.	Designation and Occupation.	Service during the Month. From	To	Days	Rate of Compensation. Dollars.	Cents	Day Mth. or Yr.	Date of contract, agreement or entry into service.	By whom owned.	Amount of rent or pay in the month. Dollars	Cents	REMARKS showing by whom the buildings were occupied and how the men were employed during the month. [Transfers and discharges will be noted under this head.]	Time and amount due and remaining unpaid. From	To	Dollars	Cents
1	1	Hous Room	offic	1	20	20	2000		Mo	July 6	Williams	2000		Office of Genl Supt	July 6	Sept 20	56	66
2	1	Geo H Hawley	Clerk	1	20	20	6000		"	" 6,		6000		Clerk in office of Genl Supt Bureau	" 6	" 20	170	00

No. 2.

REPORT

OF

PERSONS AND ARTICLES

EMPLOYED AND HIRED

at Pine Bluff Ark

During Month of October 1866

By Wm J Daines. Bt Maj &
Genl Supt Ark Ri Dist.

No. 2.

RETURN OF PERSONS AND ARTICLES, *employed and hired at* Pine Bluff Arkansas *during the month of* October 1866,

By Wm J Dawes Bt Maj & Genl Supt Ark Riv Dist

Running Number.	No. of each class.	Names of persons and Articles.	Designation and Occupation.	Service during the Month. From	To	Days	Rate of hire or Compensation. Dollars	Cents	Day Mth. or Voyage.	Date of contract agreement or entry into service.	By whom owned.	Amount of rent or pay in the month. Dollars	Cents	REMARKS showing by whom the buildings were occupied, and how the men were employed during the month. Transfers and discharges will be noted under this head.)	Time and amount due and remaining unpaid. From	To	Dollars	Cents
1	1	House 1 Room	Office	1	16	16	20		mo	Oct 1. 66	J L Billings	10	66	Office Genl Supt Ark Riv Dist	1st Oct 66	16th Oct 66	10	66
2	1	James W Vance	Clerk	1	12	12	100		mo	Oct 1. 66		40		Clerk in Office Genl Supt	Oct 1. 66	Oct 12, 66	40	00
		AMOUNT OF RENT AND HIRE DURING THE MONTH										50	66	TOTAL AMOUNT DUE AND REMAINING UNPAID			50	66

I CERTIFY, on honor, that the above is a true copy of all the persons and articles employed and hired by me during the month of October 1866, and that the observations under the head of "Remarks" and the statement of amounts due and remaining unpaid, are correct.

Wm J Dawes Bt Maj & Capt 23. USC,
Genl Supt & Pas Mar Ark Riv Dist

EXAMINED.

No. 2.

REPORT

OF

PERSONS AND ARTICLES

EMPLOYED AND HIRED

at Pine Bluff Ark

During Month of December 1866

By Wm J Dawes Bvt Majr

No. 2.

RETURN OF PERSONS AND ARTICLES, employed and hired at Pine Bluff Arkansas during the month of December 1866,

By Bvt Maj Wm J Dawes Genl Supt Bureau R&AL

Running Numbers.	No. of each class.	Names of persons and Articles.	Designation and Occupation.	Service during the Month. From	To	Days	Rate of hire or Compensation. Dollars	Cents	Day Mth. or Voyage.	Date of contract agreement or entry into service.	By whom owned.	Amount of rent or pay in the month. Dollars	Cents.	REMARKS showing by whom the buildings were occupied, and how the men were employed during the month. Transfers and discharges will be noted under this head.)	Time and amount due and remaining unpaid. From	To	Dollars	Cents
										1866					1866	1866		
1		House. 2 rooms	Office	1	31	31	25	00	Mo	Nov 1st	Jacob Bloom	25	00	Office of Genl Supt B.R.R&A.L	Dec 1st	Dec 31st	25	00
2		House, 2 rooms	Quarters	1	31	31	30	00	Mo	Dec 1st	Henry Harding	30	00	Quarters of A. A. Surgeon do	Dec 1st	Dec 31st	30	00
3		L D Pease	Clerk	1	31	31	100	00	Mo	April 1st		100	00	Clerking in office of Genl Supt do	Dec 1st	Dec 31st	100	00
4		L J Billings	Clerk	8	31	23	50	00	Mo	Dec 8th		38	33	Clerking in Claim Dept do	Dec 8th	Dec 31st	38	33
5		Storgs Darby	Carpenter	1	31	31	100	00	Mo	Dec 1st		100	00	Repairing School House Do	Dec 1st	Dec 31st	100	00
6		William Young Col	Laborer	1	31	31	30	00	Mo	July 9th		30	00	Laboring in B.R.R&A.L	Dec 1st	Dec 31st	30	00
7		Peter Hicks Col	Laborer	1	31	31	30	00	Mo	July 9th		30	00	Laboring in B.R.R&A.L	Dec 1st	Dec 31st	30	00
8		Geo W Smith	Teaming	27	29	3	5	00	Day	Dec 27th		15	00	Self & two horse team hauling (Rations & Material for Hospital	Dec 27th	Dec 29th	15	00

No. 2.

REPORT

OF

PERSONS AND ARTICLES

EMPLOYED AND HIRED

at Pine Bluff & Ark. Riv Dist Ark

During Month of January 1867

By Wm J Davis Brt Maj. Gen'l Supt

1867

No. 2.

REPORT OF PERSONS AND ARTICLES, employed and hired at Pine Bluff & Ark River District Ark during the month of January 1867

By Wm J Dawes Capt 23 USCT & Bvt Maj, Genl Supt Ark Riv Dist

Running Numbers.	No. of each class.	Names of persons and Articles.	Designation and Occupation.	Service during the Month. From	To	Days	Rate of hire or Compensation. Dollars	Cents	Day Mth. or Voyage.	Date of contract agreement or entry into service.	By whom owned.	Amount of rent or pay in the month. Dollars	Cents.	REMARKS showing by whom the buildings were occupied, and how the men were employed during the month. Transfers and discharges will be noted under this head.)	Time and amount due and remaining unpaid. From	To	Dollars	Cents.
															1867	1867		
1		House, one room	Office	1	30	30	25	00	Mo	Jan 1st 1867	Jacob Bloom	25	00	Office of Genl Supt B R & Mts	Jan 1st	Jan 31st	25	00
2		House, one room	Office	16	31	15	20	00	Mo	Jan 16th 67	James M Dennis	10	00	Office of Supt Arkansas Co	Jan 16th	Jan 31st	10	00
3		House, two rooms	Quarters	1	30	30	30	00	Mo	Dec 1st 66	Henry Harding	30	00	Quarters of A. A. Surgeon	Jan 1st	Jan 30th	30	00
4		L D Pease	Clerk	1	30	30	100	00	Mo	April 1st 66		100	00	Clerking in Office of Genl Supt	Jan 1st	Jan 31st	100	00
5		L J Billings	Clerk	1	30	30	50	00	Mo	Dec 6th 1866		50	00	Clerking in Claim Dept	Jan 1st	Jan 30th	50	00
6		William D Vale	Supt	10	30	21	100	00	Mo	Jan 10th 1867		70	00	Supt of Arkansas Co	Jan 10th	Jan 30th	70	00
7		E. A Douglas	Clerk	12	30	19	100	00	Mo	Jan 12th 1867		63	33	Clerking for Supt Ark. Co.	Jan 12th	Jan 31st	63	33
8		George Darby	Carpenter	1st	22	22	100	00	Mo	Jan 1st 67		73	33	Repairing Hospital	Jan 1st	Jan 22	73	33
9		Geo W Smith	Teaming	2	26	22	5	00	Day	Jan 2, 67		110	00	Teaming (Sundays excluded)	Jan 2d	Jan 26th	110	00
10		Peter Hicks (Col'd)	Laborer	1	30	30	30	00	Mo	July 9th 1866		30	00	Laboring in B R & Mts	Jan 1st	Jan 30	30	00
11		William Young (Col'd)	Laborer	–	–	–	–	–	–	July 9th 66		–	–	Discharged	Dec 1st 66	Dec 30, 66	30	00
12		Charles Priestley Col'd	Laborer	1	30	30	30	00	Mo	Jan 1st 67		30	00	Laboring, Discharged,	Jan 1st	Jan 30	30	00

BUREAU R. F. & A. L.

Office General Sup't. & Pro. Marshal,

Arkansas River District,

Pine Bluff, Ark., ... 1867.

DAWES,—W. J.

BREVET MAJ. CAPTAIN 23. V. R. C. GENERAL SUP'T.

Case of Linsey

vs

Atkinson

BUREAU REFUGEES, FREEDMEN & ABANDONED LANDS

Office General Sup't. & Provost Marshal,

ARKANSAS RIVER DISTRICT.

Pine Bluff, Ark,, January 28 1867

Linsey & wife & boy

7 Bales 3254 Pounds

1/2 1627 "

Raised 200 bushels Corn & more

Cultivated 21. acres

Promised to. 30

9.

Jefferson Co. Ark Jan 16" 1867

Received of Linsey Hale (Freedman) in
full of all dues except -- one due bill
for One Hundred & fifty cents 3/00 dollars

Signed G. H. Atkinson

Linsey says he dont owe
that amt. he claims

No. 2.

REPORT

OF

PERSONS AND ARTICLES

EMPLOYED AND HIRED

at Pine Bluff Ark

During Month of July 1866

By W J Dunn - Capt & AQ

Bvt Maj Genl Supt

No. 2.

REPORT OF PERSONS AND ARTICLES, employed and hired at Pine Bluff & Ark Riv Dist Ark during the month of February 1867

By Wm Dawes Capt 32 USC & Brt Maj. Genl Supt Ark Riv Dist

Running Numbers.	No. of each class.	Names of persons and Articles.	Designation and Occupation.	Service during the Month. From	To	Days	Rate of hire or Compensation. Dollars	Cents	Day Mth. or Voyage.	Date of contract agreement or entry into service.	By whom owned.	Amount of rent or pay in the month. Dollars	Cents.	REMARKS showing by whom the buildings were occupied, and how the men were employed during the month. Transfers and discharges will be noted under this head.)	Time and amount due and remaining unpaid. From	To	Dollars	Cents
															1867	1867		
1		House, one room	Office	1	28	30	25	00	mo	Jan 1st 1867	Jacob Bloom	25	00	Office of Genl Supt	Jan 1st	Feb 28th	50	00
2		House, one room	Office	1	28	30	20	00	mo	Jan 16th 1867	James M Dennis	20	00	Office of Supt Ark. Co	Jan 16th	Feb 28th	30	00
3		House, two rooms	Quarters	1	28	30	30	00	mo	Dec 1st 1866	Henry Harding	30	00	Quarters of A. A. Surgeon	Feb 1st	Feb 28th	30	00
4		L. D. Prase	Clerk	1	28	30	100	00	mo	April 1st 1866		100	00	Clerking in office of Genl Supt	Feb 1st	Feb 28th	100	00
5		L J Billings	Clerk	1	28	30	50	00	mo	Dec 8th 1866		50	00	Clerk Claim Dept Discharged	Feb 1st	Feb 28th	50	00
6		William D Hale	Supt	1	28	30	100	00	mo	Jan 10th 1867		100	00	Supt. Ark Co [illegible]	Feb 1st	Feb 28th	100	00
7		E. A. Douglas	Clerk	1	28	30	100	00	mo	Jan 12th 1867		100	00	Clerk, Ark. Co [illegible]	Jan 12th	Feb 28th	113	33
8		George Darby	Carpenter	1	22	22	100	00	mo	Feb 1st 1867		73	33	Repairing Freedmens School House	Feb 1st	Feb 22	73	33
9		Peter Hicks (Cold)	Laborer	1	28	30	30	00	mo	July 9th 1867		30	00	Laboring in B.R.F.& A.L.	Feb 1st	Feb 28th	30	00
10		James Walker (Cold)	Laborer	1	28	30	30	00	mo	Feb 1st 1867		30	00	Laboring in B.R.F.& A.L.	Feb 1st	Feb 28th	30	00
		AMOUNT OF RENT AND HIRE DURING THE MONTH.....										558	33	TOTAL AMOUNT DUE AND REMAINING UNPAID.....			656	66

I CERTIFY, on honor, that the above is a true copy of all the persons and articles employed and hired by me during the month of February 1867, and that the observations under the head of "Remarks" and the statement of amounts due and remaining unpaid, are correct.

EXAMINED.

Wm Dawes Capt Co D 32 USC
Brt Maj Genl Supt

Forrest Home Jefferson Col Ark Jan 24th 1867

Mr Wm P Hale

Gen Supt Bureau Refs Frdmn Dist

Dear Sir yours of 22 inst now before me requiring me to appear at your Office at the earliest practable day with my Acts against Linsey & family (Colored) I would beg leave to inform you I went to the agent in Dec last and reported the conduct of Linseys wife & son & was simply informed, the Bureau for Jefferson & Ark Counties had been discontinued & was referred to Civil authorities Any Acts against Linsey are Orders to Store of S. C. Ward in Pine Bluff 80.00

debt assumed by Graham 30.00
paid for picking cotton 25.87 Bales Ties 42.40
to 117 lbs corn 17¢ 16.50
hire of mule 5 days @ 10 gal Molasses 12¢ 37.90
Election for self & Family 20.00
carried over 4.00
541.90

Linsey Cotton Crop 12 Acres 7 Bales 3265 lbs
Added for half of Third 1627
Claim of 1/3 to Hooper & Third 542 lbs
Linsey Cleat 10.85 lbs
25 cts lb
5425
2170
271.25

271 | 25
70 | 65

Linsey & Family cultivated just nine acres in corn contracted to cultivate eighteen acres & keep up the fence. Failed in complying with contract in every line. I refer you to Louis Stiles and to the contract. I will be up soon if it is required of me. Yours Respectfully
G. W. Atkinson

W. J. Linsey voluntarily Deposit for last years work in presence of Henry Smith on 17th Jan 1887
G. W. Atkinson

Roll 19

Target 4

SUBORDINATE FIELD OFFICES
Pine Bluff (Jefferson County)

Press Copies of Letters Sent
Volume 1 (143) Jan.–May 1866
Jan.–July 1868

Volume pages were filmed sequentially.
Blank pages were not filmed.



Pine Bluff

Letters Sent,

from Jany 17/66

to July 30/68

Adams Jno D. 39.
Alexander J. P. B. 89.
Alexander & Watson 99.
Adams. G. Gordon 164.
Atkins Benson 167.
Averitt F. M. 254.

n Abercrombie, 65.
rk, Chas. St. 168, 264,
omey Christopher 190,
unningham, A. G. 197,

992.
223.
(.....)
2114912,
20'17908,
169,199, 25'8;
Cl. 180.
121, 2-3, 9 5'8;

Ваша благодарность

Miss Kerney D. C. [illegible]
Miss Isabel Milton 48.
Powell Mtr 175-216,
Powers Dr H.S. 235
Chase L.D. Crystal Lake Ill. 292.
Miss Carroll Chi, 244.

Roane Samuel 23.
Reeves J Henry. 41.
Rosenberg S. 93. 125
Reynolds H. W. Major. 94.
Rieley Dr 128. 129.
Reeder Saml A. 136.

N. H.
Conn. River, 97.
161.
York, 175. 221.
Com. 184.
Mex. 232, 235.
Vermont, 254, 260. 261.
Hampshire Gran. 222,

Taylor Creed. 178
Thomas Col Maj Genl Chief of Adj. Gen Genl 301
Trimble Rev. Mr. Episcopalian Minister 320

Wyatt W. W. 44.
Watson David 69.
Wright Hartwell 107.
Wilkins & Bro 119, 134.
Warren L. H. 133.
White Caroline 134.
Wilson Jenks 189, 210.
Walton & R. B. 191.
Webster C. 250.
Williams Isaac (colm) 288,

Office [illegible] Governor
Paris [illegible] Jan. 17. 1866.

Telegram

Capt H. Skinner, [illegible]
[illegible] Thos. Hammond & Co Kans.

I can be at [illegible] any time.

[illegible] Williams
[illegible] Asst. Gen'l

Office, Bureau Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands
For Jefferson County, Arkansas
Pine Bluff, Ark. Jany 26. 1866

All Indentures of Apprenticeship, made by Officers of the Freedmens Bureau, must to be binding on the parties, have the written approval of the Assistant Commissioner endorsed thereon.

Persons having taken out these Indentures from this Office are requested to return them immediately to this Office for the approval of Genl Sprague—

E. H. Coats.
Capt Vols.
Supt Freedmen
Jefferson Co. Ark.

(For Pine Bluff Dispatch)

Office Freedmen's Bureau
Chief Supt. Ark.
Pine Bluff, Ark.

Brig. Gen'l. A. A. Sprague
Asst. Comm'r. Bureau R. F. & A. Lands.
Little Rock, Ark.

General:

I have the honor to suggest that the following named Enlisted Men of the 5th U.S.C.T. Cavalry be detached to report to me for duty in the Office of the Superintendent of Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands, at Pine Bluff, Ark.

Sergeant Alonzo Ewing Co. K 5th U.S.C.T.
for Board Master

Elias Hempstead
from Unassigned Recruits

Lieut.

A. Asst. Surg. U.S.A.
Supt. &c.

Refugees & F. & A.
Pine Bluff, Ark. Jany 23/65

Capt Freedmen
Camden, Ark.

Inc Teachers will come as soon as they get Transportation -

A. Coats
Supt & Supt

Fort Blunt C.N.
January 25th. 1866.

Genl. J. H. Sharpe.
Adjt Genl Rebellion T. & N. S.
Little Rock,
Arkansas.

General:

There are two female teachers here who would go to Camden. Can they get Transportation? They are much needed there.

Yr. Ob. Svt.
J. Coats
Lt. Col. Asst.

Filed

[illegible] Bond
[illegible] Bond
[illegible]
[illegible] to certify that I am
[illegible] Bound by indentures, from
[illegible] and a Colored Girl to
[illegible] R. Woodward of Jefferson
[illegible] Arkansas. Subject to the
[illegible] of the Act Concerning
[illegible] Bureau for the State. The
[illegible] Indentures to be of full force and
effect Binding the Action of the
Act. Thereto referred.

Lieutenant

A. Col. Asst.
[illegible] of Freedmen



Office Provost Marshal
Fort Phillip, Ark. Dec 17th 1864.

Lt Col. D. N. Williams,
Asst Adjt Genl, Little Rock, Ark.

Colonel Scott has
received Order accepting resignation —
Is what name shall I approve? —
A. Brandley

U.S. Mil. Telegraph —

Office Assistant P.O.S. & C.G.
Fort Wayne, Ind. Dec 16th 1862.

Lieut. D.H. Williams,
Asst Adjt Gen. 14th Army Corps.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of enquiry, addressed to Col Lowe in regard to the Shepard case, I have the honor to transmit the following affidavit, taken by the Court in person; with his decision in the case attached thereto.

I am Sir,
Very Respectfully,
Your Obdt Servt,
Asst Judge Adv
Cent Dept &c.

Office [redacted] Freedmen
Pine Bluff Jan. 17. 1866.

Telegram

Capt H. Skinner, [redacted]
Athens [redacted] Co Kans.

I can be at [redacted] any time.
[redacted] Williams
[redacted] Asst. Gen'l

Office, Bureau Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned
for Jefferson County, Arkansas
Pine Bluff, Ark. Jany 26. 1866

All Indentures of Apprenticeship made by Officers of the Freedmens Bureau, must to be binding on the parties, have the written approval of the Assistant Commissioner endorsed thereon.

Persons having taken out these Indentures from this Office are requested to return them immediately to this Office for the approval of Genl Sprague—

E. H. Coats.
Lt Col Vols.
Supt Freedmen
Jefferson Co. Ark.

(For Pine Bluff Dispatch)

Office Provost Marshal
Dist. Red River
Shreveport La
Provost Guard Dept of Texas
Asst. Comm. Bureau R.F. & A. Lands.
Little Rock, Arkansas

Sir:

I have the honor to request that the following named Enlisted Men of the 5th U.S. Cavalry be detached to report to me for duty in the Office of the Superintendent of Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands, at Fair Bluff, N.C.

Sergeant Alonzo Ewing Co. K 3d U.S.C.C.
for Ward Master

Most Respectfully
Your Obdt. Servt.

Bvt Lt. Col. U.S.A.
Supt. &c.

Camp Refugee F. & A.
Pine Bluff, Ark. Jany 23/64

Capt Freedmen
Memphis Tenn

Two Teachers will come as soon as they get Transportation —

A. Coats
Pt Ad & Supt

Fort Blount Ark.
January 25th 1864.

Genl. J. W. Sprague.
Asst Comt Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock,
Arkansas.

General:

There are two Female Teachers here who would go to Camden. Can they get Transportation? They are much needed there.

A. Conte
A. C. Colored

Telegram

[illegible]

This is to Certify that I am
[illegible] Bound by indenture, from
[illegible] found a Colored Girl to
[illegible] Ann K. Roland of Jefferson
[illegible] Co. Ark. Subject to the
[illegible] of the Act Concerning
[illegible] Black Persons for the State. The
[illegible] Indenture to be of full force and
effect Binding the Action of the
Act. Parties refereed.

E Chestnutt

J. Col Mess.
[illegible] of Indian

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Sir:

I have long since sent
[illegible] that he has been discharged by you
and that you have ordered his wife to
leave the place on which she has entered
to labor - According to your instructions
I should pay the $15 to discharge him
You are, under obligation to pay
him the wages due him and also to
pay for keeping the Servant due him.
I would recommend that this
Servant be procured by you
Soon, &c.

Your Ob.
Servt.
[illegible]

L. Coats
A. Ast. Q. Mast.

Office Provost M.S. & R.R.
Little Rock Ark. Jany 26. 1866.

Brig. & A. Gen. Jos. Shaeffer,
Asst. Ch. of Staff Little Rock. Ark.

Sir.

I have a
Negro - Steward - here - named W. Ramsey
who wishes to go To Camden - Can the
same Transportation be

Given
Very Respectfully &c,
[illegible]
Capt & Asst Supt -
Jefferson Co. Ark.

M.S. Mill Telegraph -

P.S.

01

Office Freedmen's Bureau.
Fort Bluff, Ark.
January 31st 1866.

The bearer hereof, Mary Dolin, has authority to take her child from Mrs. C. F. Robertson or where ever else the same may be found. And any and all persons who may have the custody of said child are hereby ordered to deliver the same to Mary Dolin, aforesaid; or her agent or any person authorized by her to receive the same. Failure to comply with this direction will subject the offender to arrest and prosecution.

[illegible]
Lt. Col & Supt
Freed[illegible]

11

Office B. Refugee Freedmen & A.L.
Shelby County Tennessee
Memphis Feb. 7th 1866.

Know Persons having in their possession,
or employing Freedmen or
Children of John Simms, a Colored
citizen of Memphis, Tenn. are hereby
required to deliver the said Children
to their Father or Guardian being
made by him to them or by their Agent
or other authorized person. Refusal
to Comply with [illegible]
of any [illegible]
persons [illegible]
[illegible]

[redacted]

Office Provost Mr.ʃ + Gd.
Fort Blakely Ala. April 17th 1865.

Lt. Col. D. N. Williams,
Chief Majr Genl, Gulf Dept. &c.,

Fort Gaines

Received Order accepting Resignation —
In which name shall I approve? —
A.C. Baudelay

U.S. Mil. Telegraph —

Office Provost Marshal
Fifth Dist. Ark. Feb 24th 1864

Lieut. D. H. Williams,
Asst Adjt Gen. 13th Army Corps.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of enquiry addressed to Capt Lewis in regard to the Shepard case, I have the honor to transmit the following affidavit, taken by me in person; with his dockets on it the case attached thereto.

I am Sir,
Very Respectfully,
Your Obdt Servt.
Chas. Lewis
Asst Adjt Gen.

Office Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Fine Bluff, Ark. Feb 23d 1866.

Capt. H. Skinner,
Asst Quartermaster,
Little Rock, Ark.

Sir.

Enclosed please find Receipt and Requisitions, received, signed, and forwarded this day. The clothing is stored here in this Office. I have not the necessary blanks to issue this clothing on, and do not know that I will get them here, neither have I the time to write for them nor any assistance. [illegible] master at the Contraband camp [illegible] for some time, tho' much needed [illegible] assistance if I had authority [illegible] business of the Office keeps me [illegible]

I am Sir.
Very Respectfully,
Your Obdt Servt,
A.E. Beardsley
Asst Superv.

Headquarters [illegible]
[illegible]

Col. Chas. Hillman,
Asst. Adjt. Gen.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir,

I find the enclosed papers
in the hands of J. J. Hilliard, Esq. in the Office
of Indian Affairs, brought to this during
my administration of the Department here-
to, & proper to be laid before you, & am
informed, and believe to this effect, that
such dispositions of them
proper

Office Provost Marshal
Pine Bluff, Ark. March 1. 1866.

Brig. Gen'l J. M. Sprague
Asst. Commissioner,
Little Rock, Ark.

General,

I have the honor to
transmit herewith the returns from
this office for the month ending
February 28th 1866.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt
A. F. Evans
Act. Asst.

Office Pine Bluff Ark.
Pine Bluff Ark. [illegible]

Capt. H. Steinmetz
Quarterm. [illegible]
Little Rock Ark.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward herewith the report of the [illegible] for the months of January [illegible] 1866.

I had no blanks on hand to [illegible] by law, and had to make them [illegible] could. I will only say that [illegible] in fact, if not in form.

I signed, and [illegible] the Clothing Receipts and [illegible] 23d inst., the same day [illegible]

I am Sir,
Very Respectfully,
Your Obdt Servt.
A. C. Beardsley
A. A. A. Genl.

Office Bureau R. F. & Afs.
Pine Bluff, Ark. March 7th 1866.

Brig Genl. J. H. Sprague.
Asst Commissioner.
Little Rock, Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to transmit herewith Requisition Blanks No's 1 & 2. C. Stafford Major Pine Bluff. For month of February. 1866.

I am Genl.
Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
C. H. Barnsley
Asst Supt Rfd.

Office Superintendent U.S. Military Telegraph
Head Qrs Mil. Div. Miss. June 5th 1866.

Brig Genl. J. W. Sprague,
Asst Commissioner,
Little Rock, Ark-

General,

Col. G. H. Williams told me I need not approve, render accts &c. &c. There is much business accumulated. Shall I dispose of the same?

O. E. Brownley
Asst Supt &c.

U.S. Mil Telegraph-

15

Office Quarter Mr. G. M.
Little Rock, Ark. Feb 8th 1866.

Brig Gen'l. J. H. Sprague.
Asst Commissioner &c.
Little Rock Ark.

General.-

I forward the enclosed Contract for instructions. Mr. Employer claims the right to charge 6% per month interest- to the employee and does so. It also grants the employer the privilege to discharge the employee at his discretion with the loss of all pay then due, which is an unrighteous and unjust provision - The Contract was brought to this Office while I was absent in St. Louis & when looking for it Capt. Smith & Supervisor thought it should be returned to him & he so returned it - Very Respectfully &c.
A. A. Beardsley
A. A. Supt Ex.

Office Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff, Ark. March 15th 1866.

Capt H. Steiner
Asst Com. Treas. U. S. A.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir,

I have the honor to herewith, forward, Report of Form 2.1 for month of January 1866. at Pine Bluff. Ark. by

Also vouchers in my own favor for month of January. Signed, and returned herewith.

I did not know that I was taken up on your books. hence the mistake.

Very Respectfully your
H. E. Beardsley
Asst Supt

Office Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff, Ark. March 20th 1866.

Capt. H. Skinner,
U.S. M. Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark.

I have this day issued to
Capt Lemon Adjutant Pine Bluff
District of Washington & Howard, Allegations in
Matter "Southern Bell"

H.C. Dougherty
U.S.M. Agent.

Office of Bureau of [illegible]
[illegible] May 7th

Capt J. Clyde U.S.A.
Asst Surgeon in Charge
Little Rock Ark.

Capt I have the honor to [illegible]

[illegible]

" " " " " "

" " " " " "

" " " " " "

" B " " " "

[illegible]

Receipt of and having the Acts of Congress.

I remain very respectfully

[illegible]

Surgeon U.S.A.

In the absence of [illegible]

Eduardo J. Wallace

Bureau Refugee Freedmen & Abandoned Lands
Pine Bluff Jefferson County Arkansas
Quarter Sheet 5th 1866 Com
adjutant for Jefferson County &c &c

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
January 3rd 1866.

Dement Roane Esq.
Agent for Mrs Julia Roane,
Cottonwood Plantation
Jefferson Co. Ark.

Sir,

Having carefully perused the Contract between Mrs Julia Roane and the freedmen on the Cottonwood plantation I find that according to paragraph III of said Contract that the Corn is to be divided "two and half" which I understand has been done And you cannot take the freedmens portion of the corn unless the same is done by due process of law.

O. Cunningham
Asst Commr F.R.A.L.

Bureau R. F & A. S.
Pine Bluff Ark.
January 3. 1868.

Wm. M. Colby Esq.
Supt of Education.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to transmit herewith Monthly School Report of S.S. Byers for the month of December 1867

This is the only School Report received at this office for December. Blanks were forwarded to J.O. Lyman but he has neglected to make a report of his school.

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
S. Eastman
Asst B. R. F & A.S.

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark
January 25th 1868

Lieut Jno E Bennett.
A. A. A. G. B. R. F & A. L.
Little Rock Ark.

Lieutenant:

I have the honor to most respectfully request that I be allowed forage for one horse as it is necessary that I should keep one the better to enable me to discharge the duties of my office.

I am Lieutenant
Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
O. Reinecke
Agent Bureau R. F & A. L.

Head Qrs 6th Dist.
D. A. & C. Bureau,
Little Rock Ark.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that I am responsible for any amount of Government property I will have to be open to receive to make my returns, and obtain proper receipts for same. Invoices of stores received by the Army C.S.T. Dents Office Vicksburg Miss. Dec 9th 1864. Bureau Stores Viz.

2 M/25 Cords Wood - 1 Letter Book - 2 Journals Blank Books - 6 Pen holders - 1 Pencil ... 60 Joints Stove Pipe - 14 Elbows (one hole)

1 Oil Can - 6 Office Chairs - 2000 feet Lumber.

Quartermasters Stores &c.

3 Oil Cloths - 4 Paper Weights - 6 Pen Holders.
2 Paper Folders - 1 Pen Rack - 1 Field Desk.
4 Office Chairs - 1 Lamp -

Want for the use of the office.
Dispensary and Schoolhouse. Bureau Stores &c.
1 Letter Book used as a record in the office
2 " In Blank Books : do do
1 Lamp - & Stoves and necessary pipe.
1 Oil Can - 6 Office Chairs -

I need all of the Quartermasters Stores now on hand -

Please send blank Invoices and Receipts and such instructions as you may have to give in the case

Very respectfully Your obt Svt
S Quinette
Agent Bureau R. F. M. A. &c.

P. M. R. R. Co.
Pine Bluff Ark. Jan 4th

C. W. Page
Sheriff Jefferson County

Sir.:

The bearer of this note Willis Miller (colored) is here on requisition of the U.S. Marshal during the summer and to the time it was closed she has since tried to ascertain thereby she is now out of money and home and is in fact a county charge please see that she is at once provided for

I am sir

Very respectfully
Your obt. Serv.
J. Erisquier
by. P. B. Mack

Bureau R. F & A. L
Pine Bluff Ark.
Jan 3. 1868

Jno Dodelams Esq.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of date and have the honor to inform you that the same is satisfactory, and permission to ship a part of Mr Flowers McGregor's Cotton on the Conditions therein stated is hereby granted.

I am Sir

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt

Agent Bu R F & A L

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Jan 4th 1868.

Lieut Jno E Bennett.
A. A. G. B. R. F & A. L.
Little Rock Ark.

Lieutenant.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the following discharges with letter of 2nd Quarter accompanying each discharge Viz - Andrew Jackson late Sergt Co D. 64th U.S.C.I. Elisha White & Calvin Lindsey late Privates Co C. 64th U.S.C.I. Daniel White and Giles Hellum late Private Co D 64th U.S.C.I. Daniel McHenry, Robert Oscar & Stephen Irwin late Privates Co B. 64th U.S.C.I.

Very respectfully Your obt Servt
[illegible]
Asst Surgeon U.S.A. for Ft.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Jan 4th 1868.

Maj Henry Reeves Esq
Kinbrough plantation.
Jefferson Co Ark.

Sir.

The proceedings and Award of the Board of Arbitrators convened by your order dated Dec 26th 1867. to settle a matter in dispute between you and the freedmen employed by you during the year 1867. is approved: and the crop on said plantation is released in conformity with the decission of said Bd.

O. Howard
Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

you are indebted to him in the sum
of fifty five dollars for work done by
himself on the streets of the city
and for cutting wood and attending
to two horses during the year of December
that you refuse him a settlement
and now threaten to put him in
jail as a vagrant. You will without
delay proceed to settle with said
Page and pay him in full
for his services
&c. &c.

Your respectfully
Yours &c. &c.
D. Lewis Esq. Mayor

Capt. Reid Plan. Co. Miss.

Capt Reid Esq
Agent and Reid
Levis Plantation
Sir

In accordance with
instructions just recd given I would
most respectfully inform you that no
objection exist on the part of this office
in your appropriating at least three
fourths of the entire crop of cotton raised
on the above named plantation for the
purpose of liquidating whatever
indebtedness may have been incurred
by you in cultivating said crop
& as I am informed that you gave a
bill of sale for cotton to the amount of
$1326 to Blanc and Reid in place of
a protested draft for that amount, the
same can therefore be satisfied at once
I am sir very respectfully
Your obdt servt

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Richfield Township
Jan 10th 1868.

Lt. J. O. Kelly
A. D. Richland Township

Sir

This Office being informed by Edmond Williams and Jacob Tolliver Ex'd) that a Board of Arbitration is by you ordered to convene at the house of Messrs Blunt on Monday next upon the complaint of Isaac McKoy charging collusion between Messrs Blunt and the freedmen in their employ during the year 1867. and that you have assumed the responsibility of appointing an Arbitration for the freedmen regardless of their wishes - You are hereby notified that you have exceeded your authority in the matter. You will allow the freedmen themselves to select a suitable Arbitration Board in case

they fail to agree in the choice of an Arbitrator it will then devolve upon this office to select one for them -

Sam Ex.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt

Agent B. R. & T. W.

P. O. & Ark.

Fort Smith Ark. Jan. 4th 66

Langdon & Worstell Esq.

Hazlehill Plantation

Sir.

You are hereby notified that the report of the Board of Arbitrators convened for the purpose of settling the matter in dispute between you and the freedmen in your employ during the year 1866 is received at this office and approved. The order issued Nov. 21st 1865 stopping the shipment of the crop raised by you during the year 1865, until such settlement was procured and payments made is hereby revoked

I am sir very respectfully your obt. servt.

J. Ginsmeister Agt. B.R.F.&A.L.

Bureau R. F. & F. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Jan 11th 1868.

Isaac Price & Miller Price
Price Plantation
Lents.

The order issued from this office on the 2nd day of December claiming you to retain all the cotton brought to your gin by James M. Price for the purpose of being ginned is hereby revoked.

S. Geisreiter
Agent B.R.F. & F.L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.,
Pine Bluff Ark.
Jan 14th 1868.

Henry Page Esq.
A. A. G. R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith duplicate invoices of Quartermasters Stores with memorandum receipt for the same. Also return your receipts for one block to be added thereto. please insert the same in invoices as per pencil marks.

I am Sir

Very respectfully
Your obt Svt
J. Geisweller
Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Jan 15th 1868.

Henry Page Esq
A. C. B. R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith duplicate monthly Bureau Store, with Memorandum roll for the same - Please return receipts at your earliest convenience -

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
O. Gelsheimer
Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. F. & L.,
Pine Bluff Ark.
Jan. 15th, 1866,

Maj. Brooks,
A. A. G. R. F. & L.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir -

I have the honor to transmit herewith duplicate invoices of C. C. & Q. M. with memorandum receipts for the same - please return receipts at your earliest convenience -

I am Sir,

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Gaines Miller
Agent B. R. F. & L.

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Jan 15th 1868.

Maj Genl O.O.
Howard
Little Rock Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to transmit herewith the following vouchers in duplicate viz-
Vouchers to Abstract A. for forage.
Requisitions for fuel for offices.
Requisitions for fuel for Dispensary.
Requisitions for forage for Agent B.R.F.&L.
Requisitions for forage for A.A. Surg B.R.F.&L.

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
S. Gasaway
Asst B.R.F.&L.

Bureau R.F.& A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Jan. 14th 1865.

L. Capt Forsyth
Brt Majr Dept U.S.A.
Little Rock Ark

Major

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Check No 317 on Merchants National Bank for $200.00 in payment of Commutation Account for the months of Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. & Dec 1864.

I am Major
Very respectfully
Your Obt Svt
S. Merrill
Asst Surgn U.S.A.

Bureau R. F & A.S.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Jan 17th 1868.

Henry Page Esq
D.C.B.F.F. & A.S.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Check No 1219 on Ark. St Bank Little Rock Ark. for $240.00

I am Sir
Very respectfully
Your Obt. Serv't
S. Seisneiter
Agent B.R.F. & A.S.

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark Jan 17th 1868.

Wm Brown Esq
Pine Bluff Ark.

This office is informed that you have in your possession and are about shipping a quantity of cotton raised by Harrison Ford, Anderson Bragg, James Loosby and Henry Colbert (Colored). Employed by Sam Washington (Colored) on the Walker plantation - You are hereby notified not to ship or in any manner dispose of said cotton, there being a lien on the same for labor - A prompt compliance with this notice is expected else charges will be preferred against you for violation of Circ No 24 from Head Quarters.

O. Gerrecke
Agent B.R.F & A.L.

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark. Jan 17th 1868.

Dr Asa Brunson.
Jefferson Co Ark.

Sir.

Complaint having been made to this office by Henry Wallace (Cold) who states that you have detained to settle with him and squad. And that there is danger of unnecessary delay on your part. therefor to secure to the freedmen on your plantation a just and amicable settlement and to avoid further delay it is hereby ordered that a Board of Arbitration be convened on your plantation without delay consisting of three disinterested members one of whom to be selected by the freedmen. one by yourself and those two will select a third. Who will adjust the claims of all parties

interested
plantations

in on your

67

S. Leisruiter
Agent B.R.F.F.A.S.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark Jan 18th 1868,

Jacob Stosh & Martin Stephens / Freedmen /
Walter Reynolds plantation
Jefferson Co Ark.

Complaint having been made to this office by Taylor Freedman that you are disposing of the crop raised by him and other freedmen in your employ during the year 1867 before said freedmen have been paid for their services - All persons are hereby ordered not to sell or dispose of any portion of the crop raised by the freedmen on the above named plantation till full payment is made to all of the freedmen employed in raising the same - A full compliance with this order will be expected

S. Geisreiter
Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark Jan 18 1866.

Riley Morgan & Co
Dr Curris plantation.

Complaint having
been made to this office by Maria Martin & al,
that you refuse to pay her and others employed
by you during the year 1865, and that you are
disposing of the crop raised by them. thereby
depriving them of their just dues-

You are hereby ordered not to sell, remove
or in any manner dispose of any portion of
said Crop now remaining on said plantation
till full settlement and payment be made with
all of the freedmen employed in raising the same-
& full compliance with this order will be
expected -

S. Gesinita
Asst R.R.F & A.L.

Bureau R. F & A. L.

Pine Bluff Ark. Jan 18th 1868.

Morgon. Murphy & Bro.

Boeag: Plantation

Jefferson Co. Ark.

Complaint having been
made to this office by Lewis Ball. Daniel Manies
and Robert Walker freedmen that yeow have not
paid them and other freedmen employed by yeow
on the above named plantation during the year 1867,
and that yeow are disposing of the crop raised
by them - Yeow are hereby ordered not to sell
remove or dispose of any portion of the crop raised
by said freedmen now remaining on said place
till all of the freedmen employed by yeow are
fully paid for their services

S. Geisreiter

Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. E. & A. L.,
Pine Bluff Ark. Jan 20th 1866.

Mrs Elizabeth Miller.
Cincinnati Ohio.

Madam.

I have the honor to inform you that the Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau of R. F. & A. L. for the Sub Dist of Arkansas directs that you forward a copy of your oath of Amnesty or other satisfactory proof of loyalty before an order can be issued for the restoration of your property at Pine Bluff now on the books of this office as abandoned. The same will be sworn to before the clerk of the court with the seal of the court attached and transmitted to this office without unnecessary delay.

I am respectfully Your obt Svt
J. Eaton Jr Agent &c

B. R. & A. L.

Pine Bluff Ark Jan 22/61

To all to whom it may concern

Information having been received at this office that the cotton grown by Jenkins & Hicks on the Vaug in Plantation has been removed from said plantation before settlement has been had with the laborers employed in the cultivation of said crop it is therefore ordered that the cotton will remain where it now is until full and satisfactory settlement has been secured to the g[illegible] by the board of arbitration entered to convene for that purpose by Eugene Woodman Esq J.P. on the 21 of this month. (A violation of this order will sacrifice

the offender to it by military
commission

S. Geisinger
Asst. P.M.G.

P. R. O. A. L.

Pine Bluff Jan. 22/65

C. Th. Poyas Sheriff Jefferson Co.

Sir:

I have the honor to respectfully request information concerning your action in the case of Gu. G. Alexander vs Saml. Washington & Pvt. In Garnishment (cvbd) Was the claim of the freedman employed for wages duly considered & paid before the action raised by them was otherwise appropriated (?) An immediate answer in the shape of an endorsement on this communication is solicited. I am sir very respectfully

Your Obt. Servt

J. Eisenstein Agt. R.

S. F. Office
Fort Bluff Jan 29th 67

Genl Gorell Clayton
Oakland

Sir.

At the request of Mr. W. W. Plum I have the honor to enclose herewith, two contracts made by the Plum Bros with the freedmen in their employ during the year 1867 You will please return the same to this office when you are through with the settlement

I am Genl

Very respectfully
Your obt svt
O. Ewarts

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Jan 21st 1868.

Riley Morgan (Colored) in the settlement of
the contract between Jerry and
Eliza & Moriah Martin & fixed the balance
due said freedwomen as follows viz.

Francis Martin	$24.75
Eliza Martin	30.70
Moriah Martin	3.45.00

Also Delonia Spencer Upon satisfactory proof of the
payment of the amounts as specified
the order ensuing the crop raised by
freedwomen will be revoked.

O. Brown
Agent B. R.

P. O. C.

Pine Bluff Jan 22 /67

To all to whom it may concern

All the freedmen employed by Nathan Jenkins Esq. during the year 1867 who have not had a settlement with said Jenkins or who case is not before a board of arbitration for the purpose of settlement will without delay call on said Nathan Jenkins or his agent to have a settlement of their accounts without any further delay so that the corps can be disbanded of. For the convenience of all parties interested Saturday

the 25th day of Jan. 1868
is hereby appointed as the day
for all parties to meet for the
purpose of settlement. A prompt
compliance with this order is
expected

[illegible]

Bureau R. F & A.L.,
Pine Bluff Ark Jan 23. 1868.

David Watson Esq.
Jefferson Co Ark.

Sir.

Complaint has been made to this office by Hannah Middleton, colored, stating that you have removed the rations issued by the freedmen in your employ during the year 1867. without paying them for their services. You are hereby ordered not to sell any portion of said crop till all of the freedmen employed in raising the same are fully paid for their services and in default of said payment, charges will be preferred against you for violating the orders of the General Commanding the 4th Military District

S. Reinecke
Asst Bureau R. F & A.L.

A. A. G. G. L.
Pine Bluff Ark. Jan. 29/68

Lieut Ira M. L. Barton
Commanding Post
Lieutenant

Enclosed please
find a blank form for report of
Assaults and Murders committed
by both whites and blacks in
this county since Jan. 2nd 1867
Hoping no need of the cases I
have to call upon the different
officers for such information
as they can give me. I am required
to make this report without delay
you will therefore please fill out this

blank as your earliest convenience
giving a description of such
facts as you may have
knowledge of

I am Lieutenant

Very respectfully
Your obdt. Servt.
C. Leinweber
Lgt. C.C. 97th O.V.I.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.

Pine Bluff Ark Jan 23. 1868.

C. M Bragg Esq
Sheriff Jefferson Co Ark.

Sir.

Enclosed please find a blank form for report of Assaults and murders committed by both whites and blacks in this county since March 2 1867.

Having no record of the cases, I have to call upon the different officers for such information - I am required to make this report without delay. you will therefor please fill out this blank at your earliest convenience giving a discription of such cases as you may have knowledge of.

I am Sir

Very Respectfully
Your obt Servt
J. Lyon Asst
Asst Bureau R.F. & A.L.

Fort Pike Ark

Pine Bluff Ark Jan 23rd 68

Lieut John C. Bennett
A. A. A. G. D. & P. Ark
Little Rock Ark

Lieutenant

I have the
honor to transmit herewith
my oath of office duly executed

I am Lieutenant

Very respectfully
Your obdt Servt
S. Guisseiter
Lt 1st U.S. Cav

P. B. L. & A.
Pine Bluff Ark. Jan. 2/68

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that a board of arbitration having adjudicated the accounts of Dr. Asa Brunson with the freedmen in his employ during the year 1867 and having made an award in accordance with Cir. No. 24 from Genl. Orders Med. Dpt. showing that the freedmen are largely indebted to Dr. Asa Brunson, who having a lien upon the freedmens share of the crop by virtue of his contract is hereby authorized to remove and dispose of the whole of the crop of cotton and corn awarded to him by

said board.
Any and all parties are hereby cautioned
to abstain from any violence or other
improper conduct and will remove from
the plantation without delay unless
especially permitted to remain
by Lt. Asa Brunson.

The claims of Judge Spencer
(colored) for labor for the year 1866
having been satisfactorily settled
as the vouchers on file in my office
the order issued from this office Dec. 18th 66
stopping the shipment or removal of any
portion of the crop until such settlement
was made is hereby revoked

S. Meigs
Lt. Col. A.D.C. & A.A.

Bureau R.F.A.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Fort Bliss Texas
January 23. 1868.

Major Gen
Geo. Sykes U.S.A.
Little Rock Ark.

Gen.

I have the honor to transmit herewith monthly return of Quartermasters Stores in triplicate with one voucher for the month of December 1867.

I am Gen
Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
O. Glenville
Agent U.S.A.

Abstract of Returns
for
January 1865.

Maj. Gen. Page Corps.
S. C. & D. C. U. S. A.
Little Rock Ark.

Dec.

I have the honor to transmit herewith Monthly Returns of Clothing, Camp and Garrison Equipage in duplicate with two vouchers for the month of December 1864.

I am Sir.

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
O. Abbott
Agent C. S. A.

Bureau of [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

I have the honor to transmit herewith
the following returns for the month of December 1867.
Monthly Returns of Bureau Stores. Duplicate
Abstract C. 1 box
Abstract S 1 box
Pouch to Abstract C.
Pouch to Abstract S

I am very respectfully
Your obt Servt
O. Gerault
Agent B. R. F. & L.

Bureau R. F & L.
Fort Bluff Ark.
Jan 24th 1868.

Maj Geo Boyd
A.A.G.A.R.F & L.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir,

I have the honor to return herewith for payment the following cash vouchers for payment - Viz -

Patrick Fitzgerald $25.00 Henry Mann $15.00 & ~~one~~ one $7.00.

I would respectfully invite your attention to the fact that no vouchers were received for Peter Hicks as ~~was~~ who has heretofore been reported as laborer in Bureau R. F & L. He being sworn and nearly blind was paid him his wages in advance - I have discharged Peter Hicks (Col'd) Dec 31st 1867 and employed Nash Marks (Colored) as messenger at a compensation of

thirty dollars per month. he is a trustworthy young man and his services as messenger are indispensable -

I remain

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Reinecker
Agent B.I.S.T.

[illegible] R. F. & P.

January [illegible]

Henry Vogelsang
[illegible]
[illegible]

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith requisitions in duplicate for stationery, for the Quarter ending on the 31st day of March 1868.

I am Sir.

Very respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
S. Geisreiter
Agent [illegible]

Bureau R. F. & A. S.
Pine Bluff Ark.
January 24th 1868.

Capt Pope Esq.
Supt D.O. 12, R.F. & A.F.L.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to transmit herewith Duplicate Receipts signed for 2 Bags - please return Vouchers -

I am Sir
Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
S. Sewall
Agent B.R.F. & A.L.

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Port Bluff Ark Jan 25th 1866

Dr L. Holmes

Sir

I would respectfully request that you deliver in this place the cotton now in your charge in trust for the freedmen employed by A. C. Cole in the year 1865 please report at this office when the cotton is or will be delivered.

I would also request that you inform this office what the Hay and Corn can be sold for on the place where it now is and the amount of each as near as possible -

Please attend to this business at your earliest convenience.

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
J Gerrish
Agent B. R. F & A. L.

Bureau R.F.&A.L.
Pine Bluff, Ark.
Jan 25th 1868.

A. H. East Esq.
Agt for B. J. Duncan.
&c.

You are hereby notified that the property claimed by B. J. Duncan Esq. Selma Ala. and for which you are the Agent is still on the returns of this Bureau as "Abandoned".

You are directed in Circular Letter dated War Dept Bureau R.F.&A.L. Washington D.C. Nov 5th 1867. to take formal possession of all property not restored to its owners by the 1st day of January 1868. and rent the same to Refugees and Freedmen in accordance with the provisions of the law - In obedience to said orders this

office will hereafter exercise full control over a certain levee and lot between Barraque and Pullen Streets, Pine Bluff Ark. claimed by said B. J. Duncan and collect rent from the occupants of the same.

I am Sir.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
O. Cincinnati
Agent B. R. F. & L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Jany 25th 1866.

Lt. J. Duncan Esq.
Selma Alabama.

Sir

I am informed that you are the owner of a certain house and lot situated between Barraque and Pullam Streets Pine Bluff Ark.

You are hereby notified that the same is on the books of this office as "Abandoned" and registered in the name of C. Wells - A. H. Easly the reported agent for the property has been duly notified of the fact but has failed to take the necessary steps for the restoration of the property prior to the 1st day of January 1866.

In obedience to orders contained in

Circular Letter from the Commissioner dated War Dept Bureau R. F & L. Washington D.C. Nov 1st 1865. I have taken formal possession of the property and the same will be rented to Refugees and Freedmen in accordance with the law.

I am Sir

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
O. Brownell
Agent B. R. F & L.

P. R. & A.

Pine Bluff Jan 25/61

J. P. Alexander

Pine Bluff Ark

Sir.

You are hereby notified to appear at this office without unnecessary delay

I am sir

Your respectfully

Your obt Servt

Chas Pike

Agt P R & A

P. O. Box
Pine Bluff Jan 21/98

C. M. Bragg. Sheriff
Cir.

I have the honor
to hereby notify you to not remove
transfer or otherwise dispose of
the action raised by Benjamin
Mc Guire (colrd) on the Walker plantation
until full settlement has been
had with the hands employed
for wages by said Mc Guire
the decision of the board of
arbitration recently rendered
is deemed to be obviolation of
Cir. 22 & 24 from Hd. Qrs. 4th Mil Dist.
and will be reported in full to Sub Dist
Hd. Qrs. for further orders from the Bd. Arb.

Condy.

Dear sir

Buy respectfully
Your obdt servt
S Gerrard
Gyl & R Vial

Bureau R. & A. S.
Fort Bluff Ark.
January 24. 186

Henry Page Esq.
Disbursing Officer.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of check No 1284. on Merchants National Bank Little Rock. for $3386. payable to Extraa.

I am Sir

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
T. Shanks
Agent - Fort Pike

Ft. Pk. Va
Pine Bluff Ark
1/4

A. Rosenberg Esq.
Pine Bluff Ark

Sir:

Ordered to report to this office by
9 o'clock A.M. Jan 29th 68 a correct
transcript of the accounts of Riley
Thorgan (colrd) and the freedmen &
freedwomen in his employ during
the year 1867. You will bring the
same in person together with
the Day Book and Ledger from
which the accounts are to be taken
I am sir

Very respectfully
Your obdt svt
A. Gesswein Lt USA

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark. Jan 28. 1866.

H. W. Reynolds
Major Pine Bluff Ark.

Sir.

I would please send a blank form for report of assaults and murders committed by both whites and blacks in this county since March 2. 1865.

Having no record of the cases I have to call upon the different officers for such information. I am required to make this report without delay - you will therefore please fill out this blank at you earliest convenience, giving a description of such cases as you may have knowledge of.

Very respectfully.

S. Giauque
Agent B. R. F & A. L.

Bureau R. F & A. L,
Pine Bluff Ark. Jan 28. 1868.

Jas H. Hawley J.P.
Pine Bluff Ark.

Sir.

Enclosed please find a blank form for report of assaults and murders committed by both whites and blacks in this county since March 2. 1867.

Having no record of the cases, I have to call upon the different officers for such information - I am required to make this report without delay, you will therefore please fill out this blank at your earliest convenience, giving a description of such cases as you may have knowledge of -

Yours &c.

Very respectfully Your ob't Serv't
O. Brewster
Agent B. R. F & A. L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark Jan 28, 1868.

Eugene Bowdman Esq.
J.P. Jefferson Co Ark,

Sir.

Enclosed please find a blank form for report of assaults and murders committed by both whites and blacks in this county since March 2, 1867.

Having no record of the cases I have to call upon the different officers for such information. I am required to make this report without delay. You will therefore please fill out this blank at your earliest convenience, giving a description of such cases as you may have knowledge of.

Very respectfully
O. Brewster
Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.

Pine Bluff Ark Jan 28. 1868.

Wm P Stephens.

Clerk of the Court.

Jefferson Co Ark.

Sir.

Enclosed please find a blank form for report of assaults and murders committed by both whites and blacks in this county since March 2, 1867.

Having no record of the cases. I have to call upon the different officers for such information.

I am required to make this report without delay. You will therefore please fill out this blank at your earliest convenience. giving a description of such cases as you may have knowledge of.

Very respectfully

O. Edwards

Asst. B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
January 28. 1868.

Alfred Hannyton Esq.
Jefferson Co Ark.
Sir.

This office having been informed that you have violated the order issued from this office dated Nov 23. 1867 - You are hereby ordered to report to this office without delay and show cause for the violation of said order.

S. Willett
Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

Pine Bluff A. F. & A. M.
Pine Bluff Ark.
January 29. 1866.

Alexander Watson.
Jefferson Co Ark.

Dear Sir having been informed this office that all of the freedmen employed by you during the year 1865 have all been settled with and fully paid for their services. the orders issued from this office dated Dec 20. 1865 is hereby revoked.

S. Gwinner
Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

P. R. & T. R.

Fort Bluff Jan. 21/65

Riley (Sergeant Major)

Sir!

You are hereby notified that you will deduct from the bal. due on settlement with the freedmen in your employ the following amount found due you for supplies furnished outside of the account to wit

Francis Martin bal. due on settlement 24.75 - 16.00 = 8.75

Eliza Martin do do 30.70 - 9.00 = 21.70

Moriah Martin do do 34.50 - 19.50 = 15.00

Malinda Shuster do do 10.00 - 6.00 = 00.00

Balance due to freedmen $ 45.45

You will pay this amount without delay

Very respectfully
S. Crissuelo
Asst. Q. M. P. R. & T. R.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.,
Pine Bluff Ark.
January 3rd 1865.

Henry Page Esq.
D. C. B. R. F. & A. L.,
Little Rock Ark.

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of check No 1262 Merchants National Bank Little Rock Ark. for $1397 in payment of vouchers.

I am Sir
Very respectfully
Your obt. Servt
S. Reinartz
Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. F & A. L.

Pine Bluff Ark.

January 31. 1868.

Nathan Jenkins Esq

Sir.

I have the honor to inform you that no objections exists on the part of this office for you to turn over to Felix. G. Lemart Esq the amount of thirteen (13) bales of cotton to which he claims to be entitled to in accordance with previous arrangements between you and himself. The same will be considered as a portion of your share of the crop under the contract.

I am respectfully
Your obt. Servt
Agent F.R. & A.L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Mississippi
Jackson Jan. 1865

Henry Page Esq.
A. C. B. R. F. & A. L.
Cincinnati Ohio

Sir.

I have the honor herewith to transmit vouchers for transporting witnesses from Hamburg to Vicksburg with certificates and receipts signed as required in your letter of the [illegible] ult. [illegible] of the Act to amend [illegible] and the same.

I am sir.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
L. Vaisseau
Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. & F. A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
January 31. 1868.

Henry Page Esq.
A. A. G. R. F & A. L.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that I have received my appointment as an officer of this Bureau to date January 1. 1868. It entitles me to the same compensation as is authorized by law for the rank I previously held. but in designating the rank the word Infantry misleads of Cavalry appears in the appointment - Never having been a 2nd Lieut of Infantry I have concluded that it must be a mistake. I would ask for information as to whether this

entitles me to all the emolument of the rank of Asst Pst Capt &c. and if so. what vouchers will be necessary to be made out by me to secure the same. and by whom they are to be paid -

I have to keep two private horses. one of them is unserviceable at present from hard riding while travelling on duty. Can I have forage for two horses -

I am Sir

Your obt Svt
Lieut 41st Regt
S Cuisinier
Agent R.M.F.P.

Hd Qrs Dept Ark
Pine Bluff Ark January 31st

Maj Genl Ord U.S.A. & D.C.
Hd Qrs Dept Ark
Little Rock Ark.

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith my report of changes in Regt of Officers & Enlisted Employed and Hired by me during the month of January 1868

I am sir

Very respectfully
Your obdt Servt
S. Merrill
Lt Col & B. Gen U.S.A.

P. O. A.
Pine Bluff Feby 1st 1868

Montrell Hughes Esq

Sir:

You will upon
receipt of this write me stating
if original entries you brought
with you from the Davis Bridge
yesterday the 31st ult. are lost or

Yours Truly
Ag P O A

Pine Bluff Ark. Dec 15

Richard Jones esqr
Davis Plantation

Sir.

You are hereby notified that it has been found upon settlement made this day at this office that you are indebted to laborers employed by you the amounts set off against their respective names to wit Sam. Phillips $ 100.
George Washington 115.75
Hector Johnson 52.00
Emily Johnson 32.35
Total Amt due $ 300.10

The above amount amount will be paid without delay and will not remove any portion of your share of the crop until said

payment is made at the office

Respectfully
O. Gonsalves
Cap't P.C.C.S. & A.

L. C. & L.

Pine Bluff Feby. 1768

Richard Jones (Gold)

Sir.

You are hereby notified that Sam. Phillips, George Washington Malcolm Johnson, and Emily Johnson have this day executed (voluntarily) that they are willing to have you sell or otherwise dispose of the cotton or as to obtain the highest market price in Cash you are permitted to dispose of the crop in the best manner practicable and pay the laborer above named as soon as you have realized the money from the sale of said cotton. S. Dry Sup will attend to the division of the crop on the Dorris Plantation

Respectfully
Lieutenant
Ag't. R.R.Dept

P. O. A.

Pine Bluff Ark Sept 4

S. Dyess Esq.

Sir.

In dividing the crop between Mrs M & Morris Dick Jones you will allow one hundred pounds more to Mrs. Morris to pay for a loan Richard got from Mrs Carichter of 100 pnds to complete a bale

Respectfully

S. Christian

Agt P.B. & A.

Bureau of I. A. & M. Affs.
Little Bluff Ark.
February 3. 1861

O. M. Bogy Esq.
Sec'y I. A. & M. Affs.
Sir.

I have the honor to inform you that a settlement was made at this office on the 1st inst between Benj'n M'Curtis Esq'r and the farmers employed by him during the year 1861, and that I find there is due and forwarded the following Account &c-

Edmond Leyton and family	$860.00
Julius Westley	154.36
Alfred Stella	141.79
Wilson Childs	170.33
Mayo Johnson	51.65
Moses Greenwood	116.76
Total	$1032.88 cts

The foregoing amount found due said
Freedmen under the contract cannot be p
before any other claims can be allowed a
settlement with the crops raised by th
Freedmen on the property of said Mc Ca
I am Sir
Very respectfully
Your Ob't Servt
O. Geisreiter
Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Fort Bluff Ark.
February 3. 1868.

Riley Morgan (Col'd)
Sir

Information having reached this office that representations heretofore made by you are of a doubtful nature and that the freedmen in your employ during the year 1867 are respectfully charged with articles of merchandize they claim they never have received. It is therefore ordered that you will appear at this office on Wednesday the 5th inst at 10. O. clock am that morning at which time the settlements previously made will be fully reconsidered. You will bring necessary books and papers and notify all parties duly interested to come with you. The order from this office dated January 18th 1868. is considered to be in full force.

O. Brown
Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Fort Bluff Ark
February 3. 1866

Wm. M. Colby Esq.
Supt of Education.
Bureau R. F. & A. L.

Sir.

I have the honor to transmit herewith consolidated monthly report of Schools for the month of January 1866.

I am Sir

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt

O. Gleason
Agent No. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
February 8. 1868

Lieut Jno C Barrett
A. A. A. G. B. R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark.

Lieutenant:

I have the honor to transmit herewith monthly changes in Abandoned Lands for the month of January 1868.

I am Lieutenant
Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
O. Brunaugh
Agent Ab. Lands

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
February 3. 1868.

Benj. McGuire (Colrd)

Sir

Permission is hereby granted for you to deliver to Williams & Moo at Pine Bluff Ark all the forest rails by the freedmen in your employ during the year 1867. Payment will be made for the same at this office.

S. Merrill
Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Port Bluff Ark,
February 3, 1866.

Before Wilkins & Bro.
Port Bluff Ark,

Messrs.

Dear sirs

Please settle at this office for all the Orders delivered to you by Benj McGuire (Colored) now on the Walker plantation.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Gaisden
Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

Fort Reno I.T.
Dec 31st 1874

Gen Augur & Bvt.
Genl:

Please inform the
Office as to what action you have taken
in paying off the freedmen, &c.
Bonnyfield & Lucas. What is the atti-
tude at the Landing (?)
Bonnyfield will be ordered to Reno as the
Office for settlement with the hands on finding
the Cattle

Yours Genl

Very Respectfully
Your Obed Servt
Geo. B. Reynolds

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
February 5th 1866.

Theron Brownfield Esq
Sir.

You are hereby directed to appear at this office on Saturday the 8th inst at 2. o. clock P.M. with the necessary books and papers to effect a settlement between you and the freedmen in your employ during the year 1865. You will notify all the freedmen interested who are now on your plantation to appear here at the same time - If you fail to appear as directed the amounts claimed by the freedmen will be allowed -

O. Brown
Agent B. R. F & A. L.

To be delivered to Lt. Geo Bartlett

Bureau R. F & A. F.
Pine Bluff Ark
February 5th 1867

Riley Morgan Esqr
Sir

Pursuant to the instructions received this day by telegraph from the Commissioner I have employed during the year 1867 & fixed the wages to be paid said freedwomen the amount set opposite their respective names as follows viz

Olga Martin	$ 1.50
Mona Martin	30.00
Fanny Martin	1.50
Alzada Starks	10.00
Total	$117.80

All persons under contracting with the above is hereby rescinded - The above amount you will pay immediately taking their receipts

for the same.

S. Winslow
Agent B, A. F. & T. S.

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Port Gibson Ark.
February 5th 1866.

L. Rosenberg Esq
Port Gibson Ark,

Sir

In the reconciliation of a settlement made this day between Riley Morgan & Co, and freedwomen in his employ during the year 1864. I find there is due said freedwomen the following amounts, viz

Eliza Martin	$37.50
Moriah Martin	39.00
Francis Martin	31.00
Melinda Hunter	10.00
Total	$117.80

If the above amount is not paid immediately proceedings will be instituted against you for disposing of cotton that you knew to be under attachment.

S. Ainsworth
Asst. B. R. F & A. L.

Bureau R. F. & L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
February 6. 1868.

Jacob Trickel Martin Klepetko &c.,
Pine Bluff Ark.

This office having received satisfactory evidence that all of the freedmen employed by you during the year 1867 have all been settled with and fully paid, the order issued from this office dated January 18th. 1868. is hereby rescinded.

O. Howard
Genl & Bvt. Maj. Genl
Agent B. R. F. & L.

P. O. V & L.

Pine Bluff Ark January 1/68

This is to certify that I have this day received of D. G. H. Rider a certain receipt given by H. E. Carson to Whitten Jones also for one bale of cotton M.J. stored at Carson Landing January 28th 1868. The said receipt to be delivered to the said Whitten Jones on demand

A. Chapelle
Agt P. B. V. & L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.,
Pine Bluff Ark February 7. 1868.

Dr Joseph Bryant
Jefferson Co Ark.

Sir

Complaint has been made to this office by Peter Jones (colored) on behalf of his father Spencer Key who is sick and unable to come to this office stating that said Spencer Key has been employed upon your plantation during the year 1867 by Henry Monroe (colored) at twenty dollars per month, and that he is in danger of losing the pay for his service by reason of the crop being disposed of - You are hereby ordered not to sell, remove or dispose of any portion of the crop remaining on hand raised by the squad of which Henry Monroe is for one month till all of the freedmen of said squad are fully paid for their services and the crop released by order from this office -

O. Howard
Asst. B. R. F. & A. L.

To be delivered by Peter Jones (colored)

Bureau R. F. & A. L.

Miss Bluff Ark Feb. 7. 1866.

Henry Page Esq.

Disk Office B. R. F. & A. L.

Little Rock. Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to transmit herewith. Requisitions for forage in duplicate for Dr. Jno M. Lewis and self. Vouchers of purchases in duplicate. also receipts signed for the flour and meal oil.

I am sir

Very respectfully

Your. obt Servt

S. Linville

Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. F & A. L.

Pine Bluff Ark Feb 7. 1868.

To whom it may concern,

Information having reached this office that certain freedmen employed on the Warren plantation during the year 1867 have taken away with them implements of agriculture, such as axes, gearing, plows and other articles, the property of D. H. Warren Esq.: Any and all freedmen who have in their possession any articles belonging to said plantation not lawfully their own, will without delay deliver the same to the manager on the place and take his receipt therefor or to D. H. Warren Esq at Pine Bluff Ark. Failure to comply with this order will subject the guilty parties to arrest and punishment according to law.

S. Ferriter

Agent B. R. F & A. L.

Received
to account of
[illegible]
for
[illegible]
Bales
Cotton
[illegible]
Amounting
to
[illegible]
Dollars
[illegible]
Cents
[illegible]
Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Vicksburg Miss.
February 8th 1865
Received of Wilkins & Bro Forty five
Dollars and fifty cents ($45.50) payment
in full for 2130 bundles of bagging 1650
bundles at $2 per hundred and 480 bundles at
$2.50 per hundred. Which is to be applied to the payment
of [illegible] Cotton

(Receipt of [illegible])

[illegible] (Aug 5/65)

[illegible] ($10.00)

Fish Bluff Aug 5/65

Received of [illegible] Eleven ($11.00) Dollars for eleven bushels of corn sold him this day at $1.00 per bushel

Witness
H. C. Smith

William his / Quinnett mark

Bureau R. F. & A. L.,
Port Bluff Ark.
February 8, 1868.

Samuel A. Rorden Esq
Jefferson Co. Ark

Sir.

Satisfactory evidence having been shown to this office that you have settled and paid in full all of the freedmen employed during the year 1867 under contract with you - the orders issued from this office dated Nov 30. and Dec 7. 1867. are hereby rescinded.

O. Gibson
Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

P. O. Ark
Pine Bluff Ark. Feb 8/69

James L. Johnson
Justice of the Peace
Sir:

Amanda E. Ross (colored) has made complaint to me this day that a Mr. Lit. Slim has committed an Assault and Battery on the person of her ~~husband~~ husband who is in Mr. Slims employ who is not able to seek redress of grievance in person by reason of sickness and injuries received at the hands of Mr. Slim. You will please make necessary investigation and arrest Mr. Slim upon the affidavit of his wife Amanda E. thereby avoid action on the part of the military authorities

I am sir very respectfully

A Civil Officer

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
February 8. 1868

Lieut Jno C Bennett.
A. A. A. Gen. B. R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark,

Lieutenant,

I have the honor to return herewith the communication of W. M. McChesney Esq. dated Dec 28, 1867. with the following statement -

Your attention is invited to the detailed statement of John Stoddard Esq. member of the firm of C. Stoddard Jr & Co. The statement therein contained I believe to be true and can be verified by numerous affidavits if necessary -

I issued an order stopping the shipment of the freedmen's share of the crop raised by Mc Chesney & Cooper for the purpose of compelling a set-

ment at an early day - Dan McChesney at one time requested me to grant him a special favor. viz. to allow him to sell two bale of cotton for the purpose of buying choice groceries for himself and some of his sick friends - He insisted that I ought to indulge him on the strength of an autograph letter he holds from Maj Gen O. O. Howard recommending him to the favorable consideration of Agents of the Bureau - this was promptly refused. he then sent me a note from the plantation stating that the hands had nothing to eat. and that his partner had informed him that no more supplies could be procured. that they were debarred from selling by mortgage. and that the hands would suffer unless I permitted some of their cotton to be sold for supplies - the note was signed McChesney & Cooper. thinking that Mr. Cooper had full knowledge of the matter. I credited the statement and gave permission for the sale of two bales of cotton which I was told. would

procure supplies sufficient to complete the crop - Wm McChesney took advantage of this in the absence of Wm Cooper. and attempted to unlawfully and criminally dispose of nine bales cotton for the purpose of getting money to take the "Bankrupt Law". C. Stoddard & Co attached the cotton at the landing and it was not shipped. This action on the part of Stoddard & Co met with my approval - After I had ascertained that Wm Cooper did not know of Wm McChesney's action and became satisfied upon careful investigation that Wm McChesney was acting in bad faith. and that those of the freedmen who were willing to work. were properly supplied with rations. I again ordered McChesney & Cooper not to sell or remove or otherwise dispose of any portion of the freedmens share of the crop until otherwise ordered

I have since had [illegible]

business of that plantation. and should
which the settlement for the freedmen had no
Board of Arbitration acted in the matter of the
Johnson Oliver Esq (late Major U.S.C. and as Gen
a delegate to the Constitutional Convention at Little
from which to) was President - The Board was
commenced by an order from a Justice of the Peace
under Circular No 22 Series of 67. 4th Dist. Bureau.

The books were certainly in the hands of
M.r Cheney partner Mr Burgess - But M.r Cheney
never made application to this office for the
but at one time a negro came to the Stillwater plan
where I was attending to a settlement - and told me
that M.r Cheney wanted the books. I instructed
messenger to inform M.r Cheney to make
request in writing which he failed to do.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
[illegible]
Agent Freedmen

Bureau R. F. & A. L.,
Pine Bluff Ark. Feb. 8. 1868.

Lieut. Jno. C. Bennett.
A. A. A. G. 13. R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark.

Lieutenant.

I have the honor to transmit herewith a report of murders and assaults committed in Jefferson Co. Ark. since March 2, 1867. There being no record in this office concerning the cases reported. I called on the Comdg officer of the Post. the magistrates. Sheriff and Clerk of the County and Circuit Courts for such information as they could give me - C. M. Bragg. Sheriff Wm. P. Stephens Clerk. and H. W. Reynolds Mayor of the city of Pine Bluff. paid no attention to my communication. the report is therefore necessarily somewhat incomplete -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
[illegible]
Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Feby 8. 1866

Sect. Jno C. Kinsman
A. A. A. G. B. R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark.

Lieutenant.

I have the honor to submit herewith a copy of an award made by a board of officers convened in this city January 11, 1866, by ... upon the complaint of Mr Benj. McGuire. Co... and Saml. Washington Co's, to secure a settlement with Mr Geo. D. Alexander, with whom they were planting in partnership, on the Walker plantation near Pine Bluff. It seems that the laborers employed by the complaining parties were not the complaining parties. Messrs Washington & Benj. McGuire cannot be considered laborers

as they did not pretend to work themselves in
making the crop. but lived in town all the year.
They first made a contract with Alexander & Hunter
& not them. each made another contract with their
hands, the same were approved by Lt. D. Hastings
& kept copies of which are on file in his office
the contract with Alexander & Hunter Washington to
to receive 60 acres of land, mules and proper farm
all implements necessary, free use of Levee till. in
consideration of one half of the crop. Washington to
to furnish all the labor. necessary. and pay one hundred
rent at $1.50 per acre (Mrs G). he gave Alexander a lien
a lien upon his share of the crop for payment of
all debts due them at the end of the year. rations
furnished to be paid for at New Orleans prices
transportation and expenses added.

Washington employed six hands at forty
wages rations and some medicine furnished and
them a claim upon the crop for their wages. they have
worked well & made a favorable season. made

twenty five bales of cotton and considerable corn
Washington owes for labor balance due on
Settlement made at this office Feb. 11. 1866. $ 1121.37½
The corn has been divided among the hands - 5½
bales of his cotton has been taken possession of
by Geo. O. Alexander. and nineteen bales shipped by
Bagg disposed of by Pierce Miller & Co by whom
herewith enclosed. / leaving the following items unsettled

The contract of Benj. H. Grimes & Co.
with Alexander & Hunter is similar to that of
Saml Washington except that after all Grimes
wants have been paid one half the net proceeds
of Grimes contract with his laborers is to be the property
of Saml Washington. he employed six hands
and owes them balance due on settlement
at this office February 1. 68. $ 1023.85. his entire crop
consisted of 390 bushels of corn one half of which
was divided among the hands and their

bales of cotton: ten of which Mr Alexander took and sold. and the balance Sheriff Bagg has attached to carry out the award of the Board of Arbitration. I have notified him that the freedmen who made the crop have not been fully paid by their employer. and directed him to stop further proceedings until the matter could be laid before the Assistant Commissioner for his instructions. I would therefore respectfully request the opinion of the Asst Commissioner and necessary directions in the case.

I am Lieutenant,

Very respectfully.
Your obt Servt
L. Geisweite
Agent B. R. F. & A.

Bureau R. F. & A.
Pine Bluff Ark
January 10. 1866

Dr Joseph Bryant
Jeffersonville Ind.

Sir

This Office being satisfied that the Statement made by Peter Jones Col'd on the 7th inst were incorrect. Therefore the order issued from this Office dated 4th inst to Lately restored.

S. Ruffin
Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
February 11th 1868.

Wm. M. Corby Esq.
Supt Education B.R.F.A.L.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to forward herewith a quantity of Post or Education Stationery and Envelopes for the month of January 1868.

I am Sir

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Reinoehl
Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark
January 31. 1868

Lieut Jno C Bennett.
A. A. A. G. B. R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark.

Lieutenant:

I have the honor to transmit the following as my narrative report for the month ending January 31. 1868.

Being mustered out of service on the 5th U. S. C. Cav. by virtue of General Order from Head Quarters of the Army. to date from January 1868. I was directed to remain at my station until further orders from the Assistant Commissioner. I have since received appointment as an officer of the Bureau from the Commissioner, which I accepted and have forwarded my oath of office duly executed to file in your office.

My time is being principally occupied in making settlements. Since General Orders No. 19. 23. & 24. Series of 1867. Head Quarters 4th Military District have been revoked. my office is constantly crowded. and many have to wait for days before we can attend to their business.

I have been sick with a bill and fever almost part of the month and consequently have visited but four plantations. and the distance travelled

on official business will not exceed one hundred miles - I ought to have been out through the country more, but being overwhelmed with business at the office it was not practicable -

I have approved of but few contracts this month - The employers will not come to the Bureau to make contracts with their freedmen unless they are obliged to, while the freedmen themselves in their present empoverished condition have no choice in the matter - I apprehend a good deal of trouble during the coming season; freedmen are not made fully aware in many instances of what the documents contain they are required to sign. And consequently numerous cases will arise for the adjudication of this office

Many freedmen are under the impression that they ought not to contract. but that government will soon open plantations, or give them each a small tract of land, and furnish plantation supplies. the error I am trying to correct and am availing myself of every opportunity to instruct - the freedmen believe as much as possible from the culture of cotton and pay more attention to the production of cereals and the raising of stock.

Numerous applications for aid have been made to me by poor whites and blacks. those that were the most destitute. I

referred to the civil auth[illegible] this will
directions to return to me if nothing was
done for them. I am pleased to state that
none returned, and that the enemy is doing
considerable at this time in preventing
its poor - Destitution is becoming more
general, and it is feared that the suffer-
among the people will be greater than it has
been before been -

There are now only three schools or-
ganized in this district, the one at New
Lascony is being poorly attended, the teacher
Mrs Mary Hitchcock has been sick, and is
now quite feeble, and the freedmen are many
of them removing to other localities taking their
children with them - The school of S.S. Byers
taught in the Baptist Church (colored) is not
as numerously attended as during previous
sessions, the building is not completed and
poorly built, there are no sash in the windows
and when the weather is inclement, the blinds
have to be closed, having the house very dark
and uncomfortable - many of his pupils have
left and are now attending Mr Lyman's
school, those that remain are poorly clad,
badly taught and loosely governed - The
Port Bluff, school taught by Mr Jas O. Lyman
and Miss Kate. G. Blossom at the new schoolhouse
is in a prosperous condition, the house is

nearly full and attendance quite regular.
The Board of Trustees is actively at work
in trying to secure the attendance of more
scholars - The house is comfortable. well
seated. easily heated. and well ventilated. the
lot needs cleaning during the present wet
weather the lot is very much cut and the children
had to wade through pools of water to get to
the house.

The house and lot erected on the
name of C. Wells between Barrague and
Dillon Streets. I have taken final possession
of and the same is now advertised by par-
ties who are not able to pay a rent. A
piece of property registered in the name of
John Owen. described as "one and a half story
frame house" on Fourth St. not named in
deed - Mr John Owen says that he has
never owned any property there - all other property
has either been restored. or application for re
restoration by the owners have been made
to me for settlement

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
S. Reeves
Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. F & F L
Pine Bluff A K
February 12, 1865

Henry Page Esq.
Pay Master U.S. Army,
Little Rock Ark,

Sir

I have the honor to inform you that the following named colored soldiers of the 1st Colored Regt Ark Vol Inf who are in this county and can be sent for at any time to sign necessary vouchers, viz.

Lewis Armstrong	Co B.	63.	U. S.	Colored	Pine Bluff	A. K.
Lindy Boland	"	"	"	"	Brownsfield Place	Pine Bluff A. K.
Aaron Burnham	"	"	"	"	Mulberry Grove	" " "
Porter Caldwell	"	"	"	"	Carson Place	" " "
Ard Davis	"	"	"	"	Carson Place	" " "
Henry Ford	"	"	"	"	Fitz Hugh's	" " "

Anderson Hurel Co B.63.C.S. Pine Bluff A.C.
Ranson Smith " G. " " Gone to Pickensburg
Edward Taylor " B " " Walker Place. Pine Bluff A.C.
William Taylor " " " " Pine Bluff.
Geo Todd " " " " Brownfield Place. Pine Bluff A.C.
Stockard Thomas " " " " Stock widow lives on Cotton Pine Bluff A.C.
Joseph Turner " " " " Pine Bluff.
Peter Alford " " " " Mulberry Grove Place. Pine Bluff A.C.
Buck Polk " " " " Snipes Place " " "
Gabriel Willis " " " " Dorris Place " " "

Should the vouchers be sent here I will have them signed without unnecessary delay.

I am Sir

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
S. Merrill
Agent B.R.F.&C.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
February 13. 1866.

Henry Page Esq.
Supt. D. 12. R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock, Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to transmit herewith the following returns for the month of January 1866. viz

Monthly return of Issue Stores. Duplicate.
Vouchers to Abstract A
Abstract A. 2 Copies.
Abstract B. 2 Copies.

I am respectfully
Your obt Servt
O. Brownlee
Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
February 14. 1866.

W. F. Lindsey Esq.
Sir.

You are hereby ordered to report to this office on Tuesday the 18th inst at 2. o. clock in the afternoon with the necessary books and papers to effect a settlement between you and Geo. Garnett and all other freedmen employed by you during the year 1865. You will notify the freedmen interested of the time and place of settlement -

Agent Bureau R F & A. L.

To be delivered by Geo. Garnett Esq.

Bureau A F & F.S.
Pine Bluff Ark
February 14. 1868.

Henry Page Esq.
A.A.D.C. & C.S. A.F.B.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith Requisitions on Quartermaster for Stationery for the month of February 1868 as per Memorandum.

I am Sir
Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Heinrichs
Asst Surgeon U.S.A.

Report

Court House Office

Statement of Expenditures for the year
of twenty five dollars to be paid to
freeholders on settlement of the Collectors
for the year 1867

Jno. Everett
Clerk C.P. & O.T.

Jno. Fitch
Clerk Com. Pleas

Statement of Fees received by the Clerk of the Common Pleas
for the year ending on the 1st day of December 1867.

Writs & Judgments	14.00	Recorded	1.00
Writs & Executions	5.85	Writs	
Recorded			
	22.15		

[illegible] Co. [illegible]
[illegible] to 1st

[illegible] Mercer & Co.

1862	Extra Labor	172.00
"	Paid for hauling 10 @ 25	75.00
"	Use of Carriage	50.00
"	Use of Cotton Gin	2.50
"	Hauling Cotton to R.R.	25.00
"	" " to Gin	25.00
"	Ginning & Bits for eight bales	
"	#295 Use Gin	50.00
"	Use of Wagon & Team for moving the Crop	50.00
	Total	$384.50
	Cr by 13 lbs. of white cotton in Cob as	162½
		386 62½

So	1801 lbs of white Cotton at	$23.50	
"	1550 lbs of Yellow Cotton @	13.50	
"	12 Sacks Bags @ 50 & 3 damaged	50.00	
"	1 Sack Cotton	2.50	
	2 bus. Peas @ 30	60	
	30 bus Corn @ 100	30.00	
		461.50	
		386.12½	
	Bal to be divided among hands	75.37½	

Which gives 15 on the Dollar

Peggie	Nightingale on	76.50	14.62
Martin	Henderson	31.84	5.85
Edward	Holmes	81.50	15.90
Emmett	Lee Negro	51.52	9.45
Pink	Lee	47.26	8.65
Dan	Dixon	122.50	22.45 $75.30

U.S. Int. Rev.

One Dollar Cent Stamp 15/6

Received of C. Chisholm Esq. I.R.D.

U.S. Int. Rev. Five Dollars

& three hundred and eighty six dollars

$386.0 in full of all demand against the

Corporation on the Returns for the year 187

Philip L. Stokes

U.S. Int. Rev.

One Dollar Cent Stamp 15/6

Received of D. L. Stokes the amount

of $380.17 cents three hundred and eighty six

dollars and seventeen cents balance

and in full of all demand against the Corporation for the year 187 ~~[illegible]~~

to be used in paying expenses for the saving of the crop and the assignment of the hands, as per settlement of Dec. 24th 187 J. Chisholm Esq. I.R.D. Civil

Bureau R. F & A. L.

Pine Bluff Ark.

February 17. 1868.

W. C. Smith Esq

Agent B. R. F & A. L.

- Lewisville Arkansas.

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 12th inst and would respectfully state that I have made diligent inquiry for the said Lon Reup and can hear of no such man in this vicinity - If I can ascertain anything respecting him I will notify you in regard to the same.

Very respectfully

Your obt Servt

J. Carnutte

Agent B. R. F & A. L.

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
February 17. 1868.

Dr. Jas. M. Lewis.
A. A. Surg U. S. A.

Sir.

I have the honor to inform you that there is a white colored woman at Mrs Houston's house now being cared for by her. She is in need of medical attention and unable to go out. Mrs Houston is not able to employ a physician and thinks the woman's health may be restored with prompt attention. If you can do anything for her I wish you would.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
O. Howard
Asst. Com. Gen.

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
February 18, 1868

W. F. Lindsey Esq.
Sir.

This Office being satisfied that Geo Gornell and all other feeds employed during the year 1867 have been paid for their services. the order issued by this office dated Feb. 4, 1868 is hereby rescinded. All the action in dispute is turned over to Mr Lindsey per agreement of parties.

O. Guiteau
Agent B. R. F & A. L.

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark Feby 18. 1868.

Agent B. R. F & A. L.
Vicksburg Miss.

Sir.

I have the honor to inform you that Rachel Hampton (colored) in widow of Wade Hampton (colored) late private Co A. 54. U. S. Commanded by Capt Daniel W. Mallory has made application through G. Gordon Adams Atty at Law Vicksburg Miss. for the back pay and bounty of her deceased husband. Also for pension - The application was made about two years ago and she has never received any money - She is now living at Pine Bluff Ark, and requests the assistance of the Bureau. Should you have any information concerning her claim please notify me at your earliest convenience

By [illegible]

Very respectfully Your Obt Servt
J. Gilmer
Agent B. R. F & A. L.

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
February 19. 1868.

Henry Page Esq.
A. C. B. R F & A. L.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to return herewith the following vouchers for payment viz: L. Cornelius $145.67. L. D. Pratt $79.42 Hard wood $10.00 Henry Mason $6.00.

Your attention is respectfully called to the fact that no vouchers have been received for rent of Dispensary.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
L. Cornelius
Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

Bennett & A. S.
Fort Bluff Ark
Mississippi

Fort Bradley Texas.
Comdg Post of Pine Bluff
Lieutenant.

I have the honor to request that I be furnished with a Government riding horse for a few days. My private horse is becoming disabled, and my duties require that I should not visit different parts of this County.

I enclose herewith a copy of an order from Genl Halleck authorizing the issue

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Merrill
Lieut 7th Iowa Cav

P. B. K. & L.

Pine Bluff Ark. July 29/68

Chas A. Clark Esq.

Cashier Merchts. Nat. Bank

Little Rock Ark

Sir:

Enclosed please find Check.

No. 1193 $ 29.35/100 No. 1219 $ 27.00 + No. 1329 $ 93.90 = $ 150.25

from Henry Page D.C. R.R. & Ark and

Check No 317 from Maj. Smyth Q.M. No. 20.77

Total $ 35102

You will place the amount to my credit

& oblige

Very respectfully

Your Obt. Servt

S. Cairnes

Agt P.B.R.R. & Ark.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Nov 5th 1866

Capt. Coy
Pine Bluff Ark.

Capt.

I have the honor to inform you that the papers pertaining to the settlement of the account of Freedmen on the Refugee & Plantation and the proceedings of the Board of Arbitration have been referred to this office by the Asst Commissioner for adjudment. The action of the Board is disapproved. You will therefore suspend all action in the matter, and report to this office in writing without delay, what has been done in the premises.

Very respectfully
O. Brisbin
Agent B. R. & A. L.

Beaufort S.C.
[illegible] 1865.

J. W. Greenfield Esq
Pro Provost Marshal

Dear Sir

You will please inform
your Asst Supts pertaining to the settlement of
accounts of Freedmen on the Reserve Plantations. And
the proceedings of the Board of Arbitration have been
referred to this office by the Asst Commissioner for
adjustment. The action of the Board is disapproved.
You will therefore suspend all action in the case and
report to this office in writing without delay what
has been done in the premises.

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
J. Goodwin
Agent T&RFAL

Bureau R. E. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
February 21. 1868.

Henry Page Esq.
A. A. G. R. E. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of check dtd 13th inst. on Merchants National Bank for $932.00 in payment of vouchers.

Same Sir

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Lawrence
Agent B. R. E. & A. L.

Bureau I.A. & P.F.
Fort Bridger
February 21, 1868.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that I have received your letter of the 19th inst. directing me to proceed to Fort Bridger and report to this office for instructions.

I understand that you have a case pending before you connected with this matter. You will please make a report of the same to this office without delay so that it can be duly considered without further action at this end.

I am very respectfully
Your obt. Servt.
O. Wanzer
Agent U.S.I.A. & P.F.

Fort Gibson
Camp Bluff Creek Aug. 6

Lieut Jno M. Paxton
Comdg Det Camp Bluff
Lieut

I have the honor to inform you that Ransom Adkins (Col) has come to this office with a pin that accosted me this forenoon I send the same by my messenger Nash. Make who is instructed to take Ransom Adkins before you to be dealt with in accordance with existing orders

I am Lieutenant
Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
Jno. C. Phillips

Bureau R.F.A.S.

Pine Bluff Ark.

February 21, 1865.

Maj. Gen. Reynolds

Asst. Com. R.F.A.S.

Little Rock Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to request that you furnish me with the amount of the several articles of clothing received by last shipment. I find by taking the number of the articles on the books that there is a great deficiency in some articles. Please give me the necessary information at your earliest convenience.

Very respectfully

Your obt. Servt.

O. Cornelius

Asst. R.F.A.S.

Bureau R F & A. L.,
Pine Bluff Ark July 22. 1866.

Mr Powell
Agt for Mrs Mary Taylor.

Sir

Complaint has been made to this office by Anthony Grimfriedman, who states that he was employed by you during the year 1865 for a share of the crop. and that he never took up anything but a little meat at two different times. And that you are now taking his share of the crop to pay the indebtedness of the balance of the squad. You are hereby directed to come to this office with all freedmen at your earliest convenience. in order that the the matter at issue may be satisfactorily adjusted.

Very respectfully
Your obt Svt

By the Asst Supt Freedmen

Agent B. F. & A. L.

P.O. Ark
Pine Bluff Ark Feby 24th

Joseph Smyth Esq.
Pine Bluff Ark

Sir:

You are hereby notified to keep & retain in your possession the five bales of cotton brought to your store by a negro from the Cash plantation on the 18th inst. until further orders from this office. Any and all parties are hereby cautioned not to remove or attempt the disposal of said cotton on penalty of immediate arrest & trial by military authorities

Very respectfully
S. Brewster
Agt P.O. Ark

U. S. Dr. to C.

Fine Bluff Ark July 24/65

Received of C. M. Boggs Sheriff of
Jefferson County Ark the amount
of Seven hundred and thirty six 10/100
Dollars amount of sales of 18 bales
of Cotton raised by Benjamin
M Guire dcsd on the Walker Plantation
A. Ceisiecka

Pierce C. H. & R.
Pine Bluff Ark. Feby 2nd 65

D. H. Crawford Esq.

Sir.

I understand that
some of the hands on the Dick place
all not through with their crop
and said Cotton can you contain
to furnish the hands actually employed
I desire a speedy termination of
the work in the crop so as to enable
us to come to a settlement as the condition
of affairs will warrant.

I am sir

Very respectfully
Your obdt Servt
H. Wirsig
Agt P.B. & R.R.

To the Hon.ble
Wm Blount Esq.r Gov.r &c.a

Capt Taylor Esq.r

Sir: Your favour of last is received relative
to the Conduct of Edmund Miller & Jesse Williams
(Mulatto). In reply I have the honor to say
that if their parties persist in this kind
of Conduct you will furnish affidavits of their
behaviour & circumstances, when such measures
steps will be taken to deal with the parties
in accordance with their merits

I am Sir

Your most obed.t Hum.ble Serv.t
Geo.e Colbert
Agt C.N.A.

S. Meixner

Bureau R. F. & A. L.

Pine Bluff Ark. Feb 21-1865

A. J. Lawhorn Esq

Sir

Complaint has been made to this office by freedmen from your plantation that you refuse to settle with them for their labor during the year 1864. You will please call at this office on the 25th inst. prepared to settle with your laborers or you will be reported to these headquarters.

You are hereby ordered not to sell, remove or dispose of any portion of the crop raised by your freedmen during the year 1864 until you have settled with them and obtained from this office a certificate to that effect.

Respectfully

S. Kenniker

Agent Bureau R. F. & A. L.

Chairman of Committee of

R. R. Q.r M.r Genl.
Pine Bluff Feby 27/65

First Lieut. J. F. Shaw
A.A.G. U.S. Post
Lieut:

I have the honor to return herewith the three forms rec'd on last mail; I am informed that the Post Commander has given instructions that I should have the animal for seven days only which time has expired I should have returned the same yesterday but was absent from the city.

I am Lieut.

Very respectfully
Your Obt. Servt
S. Seisselitz
Capt R.R. Sq.d

Bureau of [illegible]
Fort Gibson [illegible]
[illegible]

Major Vega
Commanding Officer
Fort Gibson C.N.

Sir

I have the honor to enclose herewith a Requisition of Charles Bricken for Eighteen Dollars and fifty cents for the amount of Horse Shoeing done by him for the Department of the Interior

Very respectfully
Your obt. Servt.
O. Nixon
Agent C. N. [illegible]

Bureau R F + A F

Fort Bluff Ark

February 27, 1865

Lieut Col Ely
Supt Colored Refugees
Little Rock Arkansas

Sir

In accordance with your request
I have sent down to meet
Steamer Platte Valley
from

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
A Wiseman
Agent Bureau

Bureau R. E. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
February 27. 1866.

Capt. Lindsley A.Q.M.
Pine Bluff Ark.

Sir.

Please inform me what I am to expend in the settlement for the freedmen on the Reserve Plantation on Monday next. Please attend to this as the hands of the agents will cease to employ them unless they can draw rations on that day. Hoping I shall be in receipt of your reply P.M.

Please assist me to get the hands together tonight as we can bring them here on Tuesday from where they are at work & can do not for them.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Lincoln
Agent B.R.A.F.A.L.

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Little Rock Ark. March 2. 1868.

Henry Page Esq.
Supt. A & O. C. B. R. F & F.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to inform you that Mr Geo Darby is not yet paid for material furnished in completing the school house as per contract of Wm Jerks Wilson - Mr Wilson is here and says he is willing to pay but has not the money. Wm Darby is in need of the same and cannot make the amount out of Wm Wilson - Having guaranteed payment by your direction Wm Darby now desires me to pay the same -

Enclosed please find Mr Darby's bill.

Very respectfully your obt Servt
A. Chisolm
Agent B. R. F & A. L.

Jenks Hilsam Esq. Dr
To Geo. Talby

To	484	pounds Casting Sash weights	@ 1¢	33.88
"	11	Sash hinges Sash cord	@ 25	2.75
"	20	twenty pounds of nails	@ 12½	2.50
"	20	[illegible]	@ 22½	4.50
"	3	[illegible] Lights		2.00
"	2	Engaging 4 loads @ 50		2.00
"	4	Ton Scrap @ 1.00		4.00
		Cleaning & Cleaning Stove		3.50
				$ 55.13

The above is a rendication of the
former bill sent in Mr Hilsam has
for a portion of the material since

Geo Talby
Agt B & O R R Co

Fort Pitt Mar. 3d. 1758

Sir

Capt. Ourry the Bearer
is my Friend

Information having been made to me
by Mr. Gordon and Mr. [redacted]
the Inclosed Papers, that Some Evil
Disposed Persons have Spread Reports in
Your Camp, that I am Secretly Employed
by the Government to Poison the Indians
in this Garrison, I do Assure You Sir

Positively
That Neither
I or Any of my
Family

Pine Bluff Ark. 1st/68

Samuel Pinter Esq.

Attorney in fact for Bunfield Pike & Taylor

Sir!

This being a large amount of
cotton yet on the River Plantation
liable to be destroyed or stolen I desire
that the same be hauled to Pine Bluff
& that steps be taken by you, when it
is entirely secure, and when it will be convenient
subject to the order of your Obt Servt
Soon as the cotton is hauled you will send
to the office the number of Bales & on which
(1) Boat

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark
March 24. 1868

Wm. M. Colby Esq.
Supt Education R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark

Sir.

Not withstanding I have the honor to transmit herewith Consolidated Monthly Report of Schools for the month of February 1868.

No report has been received from Dallas Hitchcock at Camden Ouachita during the present year.

I am Sir.

Very respectfully
Your Obt Svt
S. Lauriter
Agent Bu. R. F. & A. L.

Respectfully

Bureau R. F & A. C.

Pine Bluff Ark.

March 4, 1868

Henry Page Esq.

Supt. R.F.A.L.

Little Rock Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to transmit herewith two set of "Clothing requisitions for the month of February 1868.

I am Sir.

Very respectfully

Your obt Servt

S. Geisreiter

Agent B.R.F.A.L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.

Pine Bluff Ark

March 21, 1868

Henry Page Esq.

Supt. R.F. & A.L. Ark.

Little Rock Ark.

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith Vouchers in duplicate for forage purchased. also requisitions in duplicate for one female horse belonging to Surgeon Jno M Lewis and one for myself for the current month.

I am Sir.

Very respectfully

Your obt Servt

O. Gresillon

Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

Fort Pike

Pine Bluff Arkan. 5/68

John Peck Esq.

Sir:

In compliance with instructions received from Maj: Genl C.O Howard Comd. B.R.F.&L. through the office of the Asst Comd I have the honor to request information concerning a colored girl named Mary Elizabeth Williams said to be living with you at present. You will please call at this office at your earliest convenience, and if the girl is at your house bring her with you to this office without delay

I am Sir

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
A. Gregutt
Lieut 8th U.S. Inf.

Bureau R. F & A. L.

Pine Bluff Ark March 5th 1866.

A. G. Cunningham Esq.

Agent B. R. F & A. L.

Lake Village Ark

Sir

In reply to your communication of the 22. ult. I have the honor to state that Christopher Chesnutt Esq is now living near Monticello Drew Co. Ark. I am credibly informed that the girl Mahala has been Indentured to said Chesnutt by the Probate Judge of Drew Co. in accordance with the Statute of the State.

I am Sir.

Very respectfully

Your obt Servt.

T. Gaskill

Agent B. R. F & A. L.

Bureau R. F & A L.

Fort Bluff Ark

March 5th 1868

Wm. M. Colby Esq.

Supt Education B.R.F&A L.

Little Rock Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to
transmit herewith, consolidated monthly report
of Schools for the month of February 1868.

This report would have been forwarded sooner
had the teachers been prompt in rendering their
reports.

I am Sir

Very respectfully

Your obt Servt

S.T. Spindler

Agent B.R.F&A L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Prairie Bluff Ark.
March 6. 1868.

Messrs Martin & Greenfield
Prairie Bluff Ark.

Gentlemen.

You are hereby ordered to turn over to this office without delay one half of the crop of cotton and corn raised on the Reserve plantation during the year 1867, or its equivalent in value. The same being the property of the freedmen employed on said plantation who have hitherto been deprived of their just right by your unauthorized action with the premises.

Yours Gentlemen

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
O. Geisreiter
Agent Bureau R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
March 6. 1868.

Genl Rufus Ing.
A.A.G. B.R.F.&A.L.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith the following returns for the month of February 1868. Viz.
Monthly Return of Issues and Sales
Vouchers to Abstract C.
Abstract S
Vouchers to Abstract S.
Vouchers to abstract H.

Very respectfully Your obt Svt
D. Ginnever
Agent Bureau R.F.&A.L.

Bancroft 12. F. & A. M.

Fort Bluff

Feb. 16. 1868.

Henry Page Esqr.

Sec'y G. G. Lodge

Little Rock Ark.

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith requisition for Stationery for the month of March and beg leave to state that my requisition for last May has not been filled. and that I am in want of Stationery. I am purchasing small quantities from time to time. the requisition is not enough to supply the office. but I do not deem myself authorized to make Supplemental Requisition while the other remained unfilled

Very respectfully your obt Svt

D. Lemmler

Asst Sec'y F. & A. M.

Forrest Bluff Ark.
February 29. 68

First Lieut Jno C Bennett
A. A. A. G. B. R. F & A. L.
Little Rock Ark.

Lieutenant.

I have the honor to submit the following as my "narrative report" for the month ending February 29. 1868.

There being many settlements of minor importance constantly coming up for adjustment I have been obliged to be at the office the largest portion of the month. and have been busily employed in adjusting the same. and attending to other matters of business pertaining to the Bureau -

I have visited a number of small plantations in the hill townships now worked entirely by freedmen that left this River Valley. many for provisions and stock sufficient to enable them to make a crop. while others will be obliged to seek employment elsewhere in order to subsist themselves - Merchants who have advanced largely on the crop of 1867 are clamorous themselves much aggrieved at frequent clearances from this office securing to the laborer his lien without first allowing the payment of plantation supplies and also a [illegible] of the

This has a tendency to stop the evil system so recklessly indulged in heretofore, which will doubtless prove beneficial to all parties at the end of the present season.

Freedmen in resolving complaints are frequently making highly erroneous statements either by reason of deficient memory or through unnecessary motives, making it very unpleasant on the part of the Agent, who if he could fully rely upon statements of freedmen either made, could act much more promptly in aiding them in obtaining full and impartial justice. There is always room for apology on behalf of the negroes, but the patience of the Agent is at times sorely tried when white men under pretense of honesty and friendship for the colored man, are found to have acted with the most unprincipled and dishonest motives, or would do so were their plans not frustrated by timely intervention on the part of this Bureau.

I have made frequent visits to the schools of Messrs Lyman and Byers. The former I find in a prosperous condition and well attended, while the latter cannot be complimented, yet there is a decided improvement to former months. The school of Miss Hitchcock on the Creek Reservation is yet small but improving. The prospect

for establishing other plantations which
is not flattering -

The people are taking advantage of
par II Cir 7 Series of 1867. and are ignoring
this office almost entirely in the making
of contracts - The freedmen are being told by
the planters that this office is having nothing
more to do with contracts. and the demand
for labor having thus far been very limited
it gave the freedmen but little choice in
the premises. they were glad to secure their
living for the time being and the employers
taking advantage of circumstances made many
contracts that will not stand the scrutiny
of this office. and as the demand for labor
increases freedmen are violating contracts
previously entered into to obtain employment
on better terms -

There are yet many destitute freedmen
not properly provided for - I have issued
the largest portion of clothing, blankets and
shoes furnished me by Henry Page Esq
Disbursing Officer at the beginning of the
month. and am retaining the small
balance for the most destitute applicants.

Very respectfully
Your obt servt
O. Gilliss

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
March 9. 1865

John De Baun Esq.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Sir.

You are hereby notified to appear at this office on Thursday the 12th inst at 10. o clock A. m. to give testimony concerning the account of Nathan Fitzhugh &c against the Insurance on the 65 Steer Plantation - The books are burned & records found entirely upon oral testimony.

Respectfully
O. Brownlee
Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

P. O.

Fort Bluff Ark. Jan. 11/65

Capt. C. Byers

You are hereby notified to appear
at this office on the 19th inst. at
the hour of 12 M. to give your
testimony in the case of Fish
& Smyth
Greenfield, claimant for certain plantation
improvements on the Bayou Plantation
during the year 1863; You will bring
with you the Memorandum of items taken down by
you from the books of Poletown Bluff together with any papers
you may
have in your possession relative to the case.

Very respectfully
Your obt. servt.
S. Steigmeier
Agt. P. C. P. & L.

Bureau R. F & A. F.

Distributed Oct 15, 1865

Q. M. General U.S.A.

Washington D. C

General

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication dated "Quartermaster General's Office. Clothing and Equipage. Washington City D. C. February 21. 1866" stating that my return of C. C. & E. Equipage rendered as Agent of the Bureau R. F & A. for the months of Nov & Dec 1865 were received and examined at your Office and sent to the Second Auditor for settlement with this "Office mark"

Jared S. Kettinger having no military title attached to his name there is no guidance of his compiling to Uniform the Muster Roll. Paying Army Regulations

For which reason I will state that these rations

were made and the signature of the recipient witnessed in accordance with Cir No 21 dated Treas Dept Bureau R.F.&A.L. Washington D.C. Dec 11th 1865. which says "Where the recipient cannot write his name his mark must be witnessed by a disinterested party." See Cir No 21 Series of 1867. Brig General A.C. Howard Com R.F.&A.L. thinks that the witness may be an officer or a civilian - Mr Jacob S. Hollinger is acting Asst Treasurer of the Bureau R.F.&A.L. and was the only person that could witness the issue of clothing when made -

The return of December of C.C. & D.C. is my final return as 2nd Lieut 5th U.S. C. Cav. I am now discharged and honorably discharged the Service of the United States by virtue of S.O. No 115 par 10. dated H.Q. D. of the Gulf U.S.C. Washington D.C. Sept 1867 to take effect from date I now hold an appointment as an officer of this Bureau from Brig Gen'l O. Howard Comr. to date from Jany 1st 1868.

Very respectfully Your obt Servt

D. Spangler
Asst Treas R.F.&A.L.

Bureau R. F & A. L.

Ft. Bluff Ark. March 13, 1866.

Henry Vega Esq.

Disb. Officer R.F. & A.L.

Little Rock Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to

return the following vouchers for payment by

you. Genevieve $146.67. J. L. Cave $11.11

Patrick Hyland 25.00 U. S. Case 1.

Jack Mack 30.00 Hangchaun 5.00

I am Sir

Very respectfully

Your Obt. Servt

S. Guisseiter

Agent R. F. & A. L.

and take such steps to recover the amount as may be necessary.

I am respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Spencer
Agent P.O.I.F.

Bill of Sale
Dr. Bent Co.
March 16th 1868

Bureau R. F. & A.S.,

Vine Bluff, Ark. March 1st 66

Lieut. Jno. G. Bennett

A. A. A. G. R. F. & A. S.

Little Rock Ark

Lieutenant,

I have the honor to report that I have effected a settlement for the freedmen employed on the Rose plantation by Sutton Sifaugh to close the year 1865 in pursuance of instructions contained in endorsement dated Office Asst Commissioner Little Rock Ark. Sept 18. 1866 (235.66). Pending the settlement Cotton was sold at an advance of 35 cents per pound. The crop was not ready for market at that time, hence the delay in the settlement. The entire amount of balance due the freedmen on settlement is over one thousand dollars. As credit could not be fully given as no account of sales have been received by Miller Martin & Hunter

for the last lot of cotton shipped by them —

Samuel Butler Esq attended to the settlement of Warring in fact for Greenfield Fisk & Taylor who is the lawful Successor of Walton Fitzhugh & Co by virtue of a Deed of Trust, and Supplementary Deed of Trust certified copies of which are herewith enclosed.

On the 6th inst. I made a check and on Messrs Martin & Sneed for one half of the crop of Cotton and corn as I previously valued (or original estimate) on Mr. Warring's plantation, herewith enclosed. I directed all of the Cotton on the Treasure plantation to be brought to Fine Bluff for safe keeping, which has been done and is now stored subject to my order. Mr. Butler claims that the cotton on hand (62 bales) should be sold and one half of the net proceeds placed to the credit of the freedmen to partially liquidate their indebtedness to the Govt. and that this office should retain Martin & Greenfield to pay over the freedmens half

interest in the crop that was shipped and otherwise disposed of by them, and that the amount of balance due the proprietors on settlement should be paid them out of the amount realized from Messrs Martin & Grenfell after the misdeductions of the proprietors pertaining to the plantation are allowed.

There will be no difficulty in obtaining the proprietors interest in the amount for which Messrs Martin & Grenfell are responsible, but they are desirous of having a positive order from the Asst Commissioner for the payment in order to secure themselves against any complaints that might arise from other parties having interest against the place.

I would therefore request that an order be issued by the Asst Commissioner directing Messrs Martin & Grenfell to pay the entire amount of the proprietors interest (12)

so much of the crop grown on the Rosine plantation during the year 1867 or it's proceeds in value, as were taken possession of by them and to authorize me to receive the same, in order to enable me to settle the proper credits on behalf of the freedmen, and pay them the balance due on final settlement.

Sam Lieutenant

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt

S. Geisweiler
Agent Bureau R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Fort Bluff Ark.
March 21. 1865

Maj. Rep. Eng
C. B. & R. R.
Little Rock Ark

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of check No 1419 Merchants National Bank, Little Rock Ark. for $3556. payable to J. Wheeler

and am Sir

Very respectfully
Your obt. Servt
S. Guinault
Agent B. R. F & A. L.

Boston U.S.A.
June 12th 1911

Hon. Secretary
of the Interior,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of check for $1235. Amount of National Bank Settlement, for $50.85 in payment of expenses

I am Sir,

Very respectfully
Your obt. Servt
A. Geiswiler
Agent U.S. Ind. Serv.

P. R. & A.

Pine Bluff Ark Sept 6th

Lieut Jno H. Barton

Comdg Post Pine Bluff

Ark.

I have the honor to state that reliable information has reached this office that one Henry Stephens (colod) was murdered in cold blood by a white man named Allen in Bolivar Township of this County on the 16th inst, that a mock trial has been held before J. H. Vaughn a Justice of the Peace of the adjoining Township who had Allen bound over to appear at the next term of the Dist Court in the sum of one thousand dollars. The parties to the bond I am credibly informed are entirely irresponsible, and the bond is not of sufficient amount. It is believed that the murderer Allen is still at large. I am further credibly informed

That I the Deponent with a Great number
the right & residence named Dennis who
can that will be found can testify that said
Wm. Walton was shot by Henry Phelps a Justice
of the Peace for that Township. to wit Henry
Phelps Henry Phelps to him or kill him
that said Walton overtook Phelps and
in - - - to say "Stop you damned Sc — a
man he (Walton) fired revolved his horse and
started off in the direction of Walton house
that Henry Phelps was soon afterwards found dead
in which the shot was fired by Walton
Henry Phelps Dem told was carrying a
pistol openly about his person which Dr Walton demanded
from him Phelps did not give it up when Dr Walton
became enraged and gave the above order I would
here state that this man Walton is one of the most rebellious
characters in this section of the country and is well known to this
office as a hater of freedom

I am Sirs very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
S. Lovell Lt Col. P.B.C.S.

Vicksburg Miss
Post Quartermaster
March 28, 1865

Capt. J. M. Clark
Post Quartermaster
Vicksburg Miss

Sir

I have the honor to
to direct to your attention the following
bales of cotton left with you on storage
1865 by a lieutenant from the 4th Illinois Cav.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant
Agent Q. M. U. S. A.

Agency - 1st of July

Pine Bluff Ark.

Colonel J. C. Luce

Comm'r Indian Affs

Washington D.C.

Sir

You are hereby
directed to remove and take into your
possession the five bales of cotton now in
the hands of Joseph Smith as agent which were
delivered to him on the 15th inst by a portion
from the Fish Plantation - You are cautioned
not to sell or dispose of said cotton to
further orders from this office

Very respectfully

S. Rainwater

Agent P. B. Ind. Ter.

Bureau R. f. & A. L.

Dave Smith

Robert Jefferson

D. Gilmer

Bureau R. F & A.

Pine Bluff Ark March 24. 1868

Dist Fracts Sale Pine Bluff

County Court of Pine Bluff

Jefferson

I have the honor to report that in pursuance to your request, I proceeded to Bolivar Township Jefferson Co. Ark. and procured the testimony of witnesses relative to the murder of Henry Phelps Colrd, committed by one Allen on Monday the 16th inst - Columbus Cathey being a small boy. I only took his statement as to his knowledge of the case - Viz. Affidavits of James R. Maxwell. H. M Quarterbus. E. H. Rossel. John Barton. Dennis Outlaw Milly Outlaw Colrd Clay Buggsby. Hannah Reeves Colrd. Lee Thompson Colrd. Robert Jefferson Colrd. Salisbury Phelps Colrd. Andrew Cook Colrd, and the Statement of

Columbus Ohio March 1st 1865

To Adjutant General

of Ohio

Sir

I have the honor to report that I
have this day relieved
Lieut Col Wm Lochbridge
as Commandant of Camp Chase
Ohio and assumed command
of the Post

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Geisreiter
Lieut Col 13th Regt V.R.C.
Agent 13th V.R.C.

with this ... and is setting a very bad
... to the citizens of his neighborhood. He is
strongly opposed to the reconstruction measures of
Congress and is not worthy to hold an office
of ... trust under the government
... of the government and
the rights and security of freedmen demand that
Wm. D. H. Hallow be prohibited from exercising
the functions of Justice of the Peace in the
... District. He is a Harrow the other Justices
of the Peace in that township have been
recently appointed by the General Commanding
& Military District and can readily attend to
the business in that section.

I am Lieutenant

Very respectfully

Your obt. svt.

S. Gibbs

Agent B.R.F.&F.

town-ship came by request of the Walton, and
on request over the body of the deceased and
put Allen under bonds of one thousand dollars
to appear at the next term of the Circuit Court.
for trial. Nothing was done with the Walton. It
is said now of Jim Allen are wholly irresponsible.
and the trial itself is believed to have been a mere
mockery. I reported the matter to Gen. Isaacs
Walton County Post who had Walton and Allen
arrested and confined & then proceeded to the place
where the murder was committed and took the testimony
of parties who'd establish the guilt of Allen, but
swore not who. That Walton directed Allen to
arrest or kill Henry Phelps, but that he refused
Allen to arrest Phelps for carrying concealed weapons
and bring him back. That Allen did not bring
him back but killed him. Allen pleads that it
was done in self defense. This will be sufficient for
him to establish. The testimony is in the hands of

Scientific [illegible] the Hon Alex Hill in custody
Walter Bacon [illegible] Stewart & [illegible]
with the assistance of Messrs Thompson & [illegible] state of a
commotion that took place in a store at Little
Cut Landing on the day of election. The parties
were in route to their homes from the place
where the election was held. The citizens in
that township became terribly enraged at the
arrest of Mr Walton who is their idol. he is
a Justice of the Peace and very zealous in pro-
moting the interest of his rebel friends regardless
justice of Law and justice regardless of the
rights of freedmen & Mr Wm Morrow the
other Justice of the Peace in that township
recently appointed was notified of the manner and
time to issue a warrant for the arrest of the
accused but declined doing anything in
the premises. it seems that he was afraid to

take action. he referred the complainant
back to you & suggested the propriety of
his application thereby giving time for in-
vestigation to send for his friend J. W. Vaughan
a Justice of the Peace in the adjoining county
who assumed jurisdiction and disposed of
the case as before stated

Very Sincerely

Yours respectfully

Yours obt Servt

S. Gilmer

Oct 13th 1846

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark March 26. 1866

Majr. C. Stoddard Jr. &c

Gentlemen

Complaint has been made to this office by Richard Fullman Col'd. that you are about to take from him ninety bushels of corn under pretense of being entitled to the same by virtue of an award of a Board of Arbitration that attended to the settlement on the Bogy plantation - Richard Fullman further states that he came by that corn lawfully, and that is his own property, that Mr Julian C. Bogy turned over the said corn to him in payment of balance due him on his share of the crop for 1866. You are hereby notified that in as much as the proceedings and award of said Board of Arbitration never was reported to the sheriff of this county to be carried into effect by him, you have no lawful right to deprive said Fullman of his property. and that he will be fully protected under Gen Orders #19 Series of 1867. from Head Quarters 4th Military District -

Very respectfully.
Your Obt Servt
S. Greiner
Agent B. R. F & A. L.

Bideford 8th
Feb. 16th. 1765.
Hond. Sir

I take the liberty to inclose you
herewith a Letter which was put into my hands
by a Gentleman of this place, desiring
I would forward it to you by the first Vessel
bound to London. I am
Hond. Sir
Your most obedient
humble Servant
S. Heaviside
Collector of H.M. Customs.

Pine Bluff Dec 21/61

Chas A. Clark Cashier
Mechanics Nat. Bank
Little Rock

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find Checks to the amount of $356.70 three hundred and fifty six dollars seventy cents which you will please to pay on my credit and oblige

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
D. Gerstle

Bureau of B.R.
Pine Bluff Ark
March 31, 1866

Majr. G. Stoddard &c &c
Gentlemen.

The order issued from this office dated March 26, 1866 & wherein you are directed not to interfere with any bushels of corn turned over to Richd. Pullman (sold) by Julian B. Bogy Esq is hereby revoked.

Very respectfully
S. Thurston
Agent B.R.F.&A.L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Paris 13 Cent 4 A.
March 31 1866.

Wm H. Colby Esq
Supt Education D.C. Ft &c.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith Consolidated Monthly Report of Schools for the month of March 1866.

I am Sir,

Very respectfully,
Your obt Svt
S. Geissler
Maj & A.A.G. & A.A.G.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
April 4. 1865

First Brig. Gen. Baxton.
Comdg Post of Pine Bluff.

Lieutenant.

I have the honor to represent that D. W. Carroll Esq. County Judge of this county has notified this office that the county is no longer able to provide for its paupers that the merchants refuse to accept County Orders for provisions and groceries, and there is no money in the County Treasury. The storm in charge of the poorhouse has already discharged several paupers who are now on the highway without food or shelter. And in a very destitute condition. Seven Colored men. one woman and two children. Also two white persons are still there. There [illegible] and

starving and are being told by the keeper of the poorhouse that they will all have to leave on Monday as he is not able to feed them longer. It is a very distressing state of affairs. General Orders No 15 dated Hd Quarters Sub. Dept. of Ark Little Rock Ark December 19. 1864. are not being complied with and no one seems to know what to do in the premises -

I would respectfully ask as to whether anything can be done by you for the immediate relief of the sufferers as it is wholly out of my power to provide for them -

I am Lieutenant.

Very respectfully -

Your Obt Servt

S. Reinecke

Capt 13. U. S. C. H. A.

P. C. A. & A. L.

Pine Bluff Ark 6/68

Lt. Jno. M. Lewis

A. A. Surg. P. C. A. & A. L.

Sir.

I have the honor to inform you that the County Judge has notified this office that the county can no longer care for its paupers that the merchants refuse to take county scrip in payment of supplies and there being no money in the treasury nothing further can be done on his part to procure food for them. Some of the paupers have been turned out of the poorhouse last week and the balance I am told will be turned in the road to day wholly unprovided for.

There are three black men one woman
and two children also one white man
and a white boy to be furnished for, they
are said to be entirely helpless. I have
notified Lieut. Barton of the fact last
saturday and called at your house to
consult with you but you had not
returned. I purpose writing to the
Qst. Genl. by first mail but in the
mean time if any thing could be done
to ameliorate the suffering of these
unfortunate people it, might to be done
at once. I have no means at my
command, could any of them be sent
to Little Rock Hospital.

Iam Yours

Very respectfully
Your obdt servt
L Geisreiter Lt & A.

Bureau R. F & F.

Pine Bluff Ark.

Sept 6, 1865.

Henry Page Esq.

Sup. R. F & F.

Little Rock Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to return herewith duplicate receipts signed for Stationery transferred in the month of March 1866,

I am Sir

Very respectfully

Your obt Servt

A Geisreiter

Agent R. F & F.

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
April 1. 1868.

Maj. Roger Eby.
Supt. A.A.G. B. R. F & A. L.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to transmit herewith Quarterly Statement of Bureau Stores for the Quarter ending on the 31st day of March 1868.

I am Sir
Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
S. Genreiter
Agent B. R. F & A. L.

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
April 7. 1868.

Henry Page Esq.
A. A. G. U. S. B. R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to transmit herewith the following returns for the month of March 1868 viz

Monthly Returns of Bureau Stores — Duplicate
Voucher to Abstract C.
Abstract E — 2 Vouchers
Voucher to Abstract F.
Voucher to Abstract G.

Very respectfully
Your obt Serv.
S. Meriter
Agent B. R. F & A. L.

241

R. O. for ad
Pine Bluff Ark. April 8th 68

First Lieutenant John C. Bennett
A. A. A. G. R. O. for Ad.
Little Rock Ark

Lieutenant

I have the
honor to transmit herewith my
Report of Changes in the list of Absentees
Lands for the month ending March 31st
1868

I am Lieutenant
Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
S. Guiseuiler
Agt. A. R. O. for Ad.

Brevet M. G. U. S.

Fort Cliff Ark.

April 8. 1862

Capt Nagle Comy

Steamer Hastings.

Sir

I have the honor to
transmit herewith Clothing Receipt rolls in
duplicate for the months of December,
January &
February
Prior to the Seizure
of Fort Cliff
Arkansas.

Bureau R. F. & A.
Post Bluff Ark
March 31. 1865.

Lieut Jno C Bennett
A A A.G. B. R. F. & A.
Little Rock Ark.

Lieutenant-

I have the h[onor] to transmit the following as my monthly report for the month ending March 31. 1865.

The amount of business at this office being less than in former months gave me an opportunity to visit plantations the greater portion of the time. I find that in most instances planters have taken advantage of freedmen during January and Feb in the [illegible] amount of provisions than could [illegible] to necessary for labor - Many of which can in no instance that can neither [illegible] in this office the most of which cannot be assessed in court of equity. The laborers are [illegible] under secure and hungry & while the slightest [illegible] of their contract which the employers even refuse their portion of the at planting. and nothing is done in order to indemnify the laborer except by [illegible] security under the Civil Laws. In contract form three of the employers secure to themselves the right of being the judge and

all matters of dispute under the contract, and
to discharge the laborers whenever in their
judgment he violates his contract for any cause
or fails to give entire satisfaction - Resolved
also - themselves to be persuaded to sign
contracts without coming to this office. the
most of the planters being aware of the system
of deceive they have adopt Commissioners
office are availing themselves of this indulgence
by attempting to take undue advantage of
the ignorance of freedmen - many planters
can be seen to provide for their hands during
the entire year but nevertheless they possibly
enter into an agreement to that effect hoping
that when the crop is over planted they will
be able to obtain supplies on credit to run them
the balance of the season. This the freedmen
do not know - and after having worked two
or three months and perhaps longer, will
probably find that they have made a mistake
by contracting with irresponsible parties. and
may work they have taken pains to inquire
or contract at the store - After the expiration
agreement of securing practical experience
freedmen by planters last year this fugitive
against them by the majority of white
because of their present status is not
published sometimes. Some necessary to find
as much confidence still existing among

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible]

The [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
Surgeon Jno. M. Lewis U.S.A. in which he
speaks in [illegible] of the [illegible] of
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of
made by Surgeon Lewis to this office
The distance travelled on official business
during the month is [illegible] miles
fifty miles.
I am Sir
Very respectfully
Your obt. Servt.
Meriwether
Agent U.S.A. Ind. Affrs.

Bureau R. F & L. S.
Fort Bluff Ark.
April 13. 1866

S. H. Hewitt Esq
Superintendent

Sir

You are hereby notified to appear at this office on Saturday the 14th inst. to answer to a charge of willful and wanton violation of contract made against you by Washington Gilbert Esq. - You will bring with you your books and accounts against said Gilbert and be prepared to show cause why you should not be suspended from duty pending the investigation of charges preferred against you.

Very respectfully
S. Hewitt
Agent B. R. F & L. S.

Boise [illegible] 1875

Boise [illegible]

[illegible]

Henry Page Esq

Collector's Office U.S.P.O.

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of check No 1435 on Merchants National Bank Salt Lake for the sum of three hundred and fifteen dollars in payment of vouchers

Yours Etc

Very respectfully

Your Obt Servt

D. Conrad

Collector U.S.P.O.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]	# 11.24
[illegible]	31.72
[illegible]	31.26
[illegible]	46.05
[illegible]	41.05
[illegible]	53.62
[illegible]	35.11
[illegible]	45.11
	# 433.34

[illegible]

[illegible]

2LA

Bearing 16. 1778.
Pilot Boat.
Capt. Isaac Ives.

James Shippen Esq.
Philadelphia

Sir

Herewith I send
Copies of the Notes & Observations
taken on board the Vessel
between this & the Capes, & certain
Observations taken since the Ship arrived
at Marcus Hook.

I am Sir
Your most obedient
Humble Servant
Thos. Truxtun

Thos. Truxtun
Agent Pilot Boat

Bureau de Police

Paris, le

ce jour 1865

Monsieur le Préfet de Police

Monsieur le Préfet,

J'ai l'honneur de vous prier de vouloir bien donner des ordres pour que le nommé [illegible] soit mis en liberté immédiatement.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Préfet, l'assurance de ma considération très distinguée.

Le Chef de Bureau

[illegible]

Peoria Ill. Feb 24. 1868.

Lt. Col. Greenfield Cy
Fort Leavenworth Kas.

Sir:

You are hereby
ordered to appear at this
office on Saturday the 29th inst at 2 o'clock P.M.
on business pertaining to the Revenue Plantation
please bring papers vouchers.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Guiteau
Agent B. of F. & R. L.

Pine Bluff Ark.
April 22, 1868

C. M. Martin Esq.
Pine Bluff Ark.

Sir:

You are hereby respectfully requested to appear at this Office on Friday the 24th inst at 2, o clock p.m. on business pertaining to the Refugee plantation. please bring necessary vouchers if any on your person or estate.

I am &c.

Your obt Servt
S. Swineford
Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau of F & F.S.
Pine Bluff Ark.
April 23. 1868.

Capt Butler &
Pine Bluff Ark.

Sir.

You are hereby
respectfully requested to appear at
this office on Friday the 24th inst.
at 10 o'clock A.M. on business pertaining
to the free plantation plows & you
are hereby cautioned if any of your possessions
fail to do so.

I am Sir.

Very respectfully
Your Obt Svt
O. Brunet
Agent B.R.F & F.S.

Know all Men by these Presents, That I, [illegible]
of the [illegible] in the County of [illegible] and
State of [illegible] am held and firmly bound unto
the [illegible] in the sum of [illegible] Dollars, to
be paid to the said [illegible] or their certain
Attorney, Executors, Administrators or Assigns; to
which payment, well and truly to be made and
done, I bind myself, my Heirs, Executors and
Administrators firmly by these presents.

Sealed with my Seal, and dated this [illegible] day of
[illegible] in the year of our Lord one thousand
[illegible] hundred and [illegible].

The Condition of the above obligation is such, That
if the above bounden [illegible] shall well and truly
[illegible] and perform, or cause to be performed,
all and singular the Covenants, Conditions and
Agreements in a certain Indenture of Lease,
bearing even date herewith, and made between
the said [illegible] of the one part, and the said
[illegible] of the other part, which on the part and
behalf of the said [illegible] are to be kept,
performed and observed, according to the true
intent and meaning of the same; then the above
obligation to be void, or else to remain in full
force and virtue.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered
in the presence of
[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Bureau R. E. & F. L.

Paris 13th Sept. dist.

April 20th 1868

Major Gen. Ely

Comd. 13th Sub. Dist.

Little Rock Ark.

Gen.

I have the honor to transmit herewith the receipts of the 1st and 2nd Instalments Bounty Fund each, and for the account of this, Jefferson County to the credit of Arkansas —

Very respectfully
Your obt. Svt.

O. Brown

Agent 13th Sub. Dist.

Agent U.S.A.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Boston K. T. & A. S.
Pope Blanchard
May 6, 1768

Reverend Sir
& Brethren

Sitting Lodge.

Sir,

I have the honor to communicate herewith a petition for Charity in behalf of Bro. Joseph Lewis which I committed to Bro. Thomas Dennis which I conceive to be a proper Communication of that Nature

I am Sir,

Your respectfull
Humble Servt
P. Blanchard

Boston K. T. 1796

Post Office
Pine Bluff Ark 7/65

J. H. Crawford Esq

Sir.

I have to know to inform you that Sol Jackman for himself Leonard Hudson & Sam Jackman has had due him on settlement $79.19 he is much in need of provisions and I should be pleased to have you advance them about fifty dollars of their wages on that of Sol Jackman personally intending will be duly allowed in final settlement. I shall be at leisure this P.M. and shall be pleased to call and see you. Butler at my office & remind said settlement

Yours with Respect

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Yazoo Bluff Miss.
May 1st 1868.

Sir.

I have the honor to inform you that Mrs Elizabeth Alexander Colored widow of Thomas Alexander late Private Co "A" 18th Regt U.S.C. Infantry is now residing on the Berry plantation in this County in the employ of Sebornan Franklin Esq. I see by a communication from 1st Lieut Merritt Barber 34th U.S. Infantry A.A.A. Gen Sub District of Miss. that you have forwarded her claim for her husbands back pay and bounty Dec'r 1866, and that the same had not been returned at the date of Lieut Barber's letter. She is desirous to learn whether the claim has been allowed, and what further steps

are necessary on her part to take to secure the amount due her from Government at the earliest possible moment. A letter for her addressed to this office will be promptly delivered. Ever early answer is solicited

I am Sir

Very respectfully
Your ob't Servt
S. Graveley
Agent B. R. F. & F. S.

Benj E. Lee
late U.S. Claim Agent
Cashier Freedmen's Saving Bank
Vicksburg Miss
Through Officer Asst Commissioner B.R.F.&F.S.
for the State of Miss.

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
May 1st 1868.

Lieut Jno C Beaumont
A. A. A. G. B. R. F & A. L.
Little Rock Ark.

Lieutenant.

I have the honor to transmit the following as my monthly report for the month ending April 30th 1868.

The principal part of the month has been spent in visiting plantations throughout the district - I find the freedmen are applying themselves very closely at work, and have in most instances succeeded in securing a fair stand of cotton and corn. And the present prospect for a crop is really splendid. The number of acres planted in corn compared to those of cotton is much larger than in previous years. In some instances freedmen being overjealous have planted corn where they were directed to plant cotton hoping that I would see them there should any fault be found by their employer. This I cannot do in every case thereby incurring the displeasure of the freedmen, claiming themselves aggrieved.

Most planters find it difficult to

secure necessary supplies, and several will be obliged to abandon a portion of their crop and decharge their laborers because they cannot obtain provisions.

The old custom of freedmen not working Saturdays is fast becoming abolished and records of this last show a marked improvement in the stability of the colored people as laborers. While the colored people are applying themselves closely at work, and have a better reputation than heretofore, yet it is feared that should they succeed (as it is believed they will) in making a good crop, they will be but little benefited thereby, allowing even that their employers should justly pay them, their limited knowledge of business and corresponding disposition will subject them to the relinquishment of their homes, if not the mortgage of their employers property.

The schools in this district are having a full attendance though but little is being contributed by the freedmen towards the support of the same. And no more schools can at present be established in this county by reason of the poverty of the freed people and plantation owners of school houses and

accommodations for Coachers. and a decent
disposition on the part of many whites who
would not permit a colored person to reside
in their neighborhood if in their
power to prevent.

Many inquiries are being made by
colored soldiers and their friends concerning
their claims for bounty. back pay &c from the
U. S. Government. We have notice of claims
being allowed that have been forwarded by
this office, and of others forwarded by claim
& Williams collecting Agents at this place
they have additional notice of their claims
being allowed. altogether amounting to near
$8,000 due on discharges forwarded by
them. This amount and all other claims
allowed to colored claimants under existing
regulations is to be paid by the disbursing Officer
of the Bureau at Little Rock. thus putting the
claimants to a great deal of trouble and
expense - I would respectfully rec-
ommend that if at all possible ar-
rangements be made to enable those people
to obtain their money here -

The distance travelled on official business
during the month is near 225 miles -

I am Lieutenant

Very respectfully your obt Servt

No 1 & 2

Pine Bluff Ark May 12/68

J. W. Longfield esq.

Sir please pay to Josiah Gaither order Sixty four 57/100 dollars and charge the same to the account of the Reserve Plantation as per settlement for 67

A. Geizeiter
Agt B. B. R. F. & A.

No 2

Pine Bluff May 12th 68

J. W. Longfield Esq.

Sir please pay to Silas Gaither order Sixty four 57/100 dollars and charge the same to the account of the Reserve plantation as per settlement for 67

A. Geizeiter
Agt B. B. R. F. & A.

D. R. No 54

Pine Bluff Ark May 12/68

J. H. Grayfield Esq

Dear Sir, On this date I have sold to Samuel Dyer (late Capt. 8th Iowa Cav.) the interest of forty nine 49/100 dollars, that the Union wife in the Estate of the Rebel Plantation and Negroes which was forfeited

Yours Truly
Lt. Col. & A.A.G.

R. R. Co

Pine Bluff May 26

Received of Samuel Butler Esq
Attorney in fact for Greenfield
Fish & Taylor the amount of
Fifty one hundred and twenty five
Dollars in full balance due on settlement
to freedmen employed on the Revere
Plantation during the year 1867; the amounts
severally to be paid to the following named
freedmen in the same sums opposite their
respective names to wit

Michael Sampson	67.27
Silas Kennedy + wife	44.75
Joseph Noble + wife	90.22
Josiah Kennedy + wife	21.37
Samuel Daniel + wife	49.93

Cond weight paid

Cuffy Hunt + wife	$69.44
Sampson Spratt	36.96
Thos Jackman	79.19
Britton Taylor	132.98
Frank Lemuel	72.60
Thos Tyler	58.62
Sum Total	$1325.73

S. Geisreiter
Agt. B.R. F+A.

P. R. & T. R.

Pine Bluff May 12/68

Samuel Butler Esq.

Attorney in fact for Greenfield Dick & Taylor

Sir.

A Settlement having been effected and amounts of balance due the freedmen employed on the Reserve Plantation having been paid you have permission to take possession of thirty two bales of Cotton heretofore retained in your warehouse by orders from this office

I am sir

Very respectfully

Your obdt. servt.

S. Geisreiter

Agt P. R. R. & T. R.

Pocahontas A. & M. R.

Pine Bluff Ark

May 13. 1868.

Henry Page Esq.

C. & I. B. R. R. & M. Co.

Little Rock Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of check No 1676 on the Merchants & Planters Bank Little Rock Ark for the sum of Thirty seven 82/100 dollars payable to the order of J. D. Pond.

Very respectfully

Your Obt Servt.

S. Leisure

Agent C. & I. B. R. R. & M. Co.

Bureau R. F & A. L.

Post Bluff Ark.

May 15. 1865

Lieut Post & Bennett.

A. A. A. G. B. R. F & A. L.

Little Rock Ark,

Lieutenant.

I have the honor to report that I have succeeded in securing the amount of balance due the freedmen on the Desiree Plantation for the year 1864.

I informed the so called trustees Messrs Martin & Greenfield that unless they paid the money at once I would proceed to turn over cotton enough (of the thirty two bales I had attached and stored here) to pay them - This had the desired effect. Mrs Greenfield paid over the amount of $1325.05 the amount in full of

balance found due on settlement. I brought
Mr Butler the Attorney - & receipted to
Mr Butler for the amount. and have paid
the money over to the respective freedmen with
the exception of one Samuel Spratt who lives
near Little Rock. there is due him $ 86.62 -

The freedmen have had a full and impartial
settlement. and have been highly benefitted
by the delay by reason of the advance in
the price of cotton -

The order asked for in my communication
of the 18th of March is not received -

I am Lieutenant -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Geiszler
Agent B. R. F & A. L.

Bureau R. R. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark May 19/65

Maj Page A.A.G. D.C
B. R. & A.L. Little Rock Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Check No 1610 for the amount of $290.84 in pay rum of services rendered for April to wit

S Gerrier	140.00	
L. D. Pratt	99.00	
H. P. Grace	15.00	
Nash Marks	36.00	290.84

I am sir

Very respectfully
Your obt servt
S. Gerrier
Agt B R & A L

P. O. & C.

Pine Bluff Ark May 19/08

Maj Page U. S. A. & D.C.

P. O. Dept Lit. Little Rock Ark.

Sir:

I have the honor to state that Mr L. L. Rose has resigned his position as clerk in this office to take effect on the 10th inst, he is now en route to his home in Wisconsin Mr Rose has been on duty in this office for over two years and has done good & faithful service & regrets exceedingly leaving to do without him in future. I would respectfully request that he be allowed to draw his final pay that is due him for services rendered as clerk in this office from the first to the fifteenth of May, both inclusive, $50.00; he is not indebted to the Government

Bureau R. F. & L.
Little Rock Ark. May 20th/65

Isaac Williams (colrd)
Pine Bluff Ark.

Sir.

I am in receipt of a telegram from the Asst Commissioner's Office at Little Rock Ark. wherein I am directed by Lieut John C. Bennett A. A. A. Genl to find you and to have you report at his office immediately. You will proceed without delay to Little Rock Ark. and report to Lieut. John C Bennett A. A. G. Genl R. F. & L. for instructions

Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Agt B. R. F. & L.

A. G. O. & A.

Pine Bluff Ark May 20th 68

Maj. Page A.A.G. &c.

Sir

The bearer of this letter represents himself to be Abram Waters the father of Squire Waters & Silas Waters whose claims for the back pay & bounty & bounty have been allowed in certificates 402534 & 402835, his wife he says is now at Little Rock & claims that Capt Saml Shelley will identify. I would respectfully request that if practicable he be furnished the amount due him on the above certificates

I am sir

Very respectfully
Your obdt servt
J. Conner
Capt A.D.C. & A.A.G.

Bureau R. F. + A. L.

Pine Bluff May 22nd/68

Maj Paige A. A. + I. G.
R. F. + A. L. Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith for the approval of the Asst Comr. Abstract & with Vouchers No 1 + 2 in place of Voucher No. 1 returned by the Chief C. No. of this Bureau, as incorrect by reason of the issue of stationary being in excess to the authorized allowance. I would request that when approved the same be forwarded to the Commissioner of this Bureau for his order authorizing the extra issue on Voucher No. 2 and for file with my property returns forwarded by the Chief C. No. to the office of the Third Auditor of the Treasury for final examination + settlement

I am sir

Very respectfully
Your obt. servt
O. Brewster
Agt. R. F. + A. L.

A. G. O. for Ark.

Pine Bluff Ark May 22nd 65

Maj Gen Pope U.S.A. & D.O.
A.G.O. for Ark. Little Rock

Sir!

I have the honor to request that I be furnished with a supply of the following blank forms for Returns of Ordnance Property

Form 23 Monthly Returns Ordnance Stores
do 38 Monthly to Abstract I Stationary

I am sir

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
O. Geisreiter
Capt A.G.O. for Ark.

I have the honor to inform you that
Lt. Henry Cox will be at your office on return
to pay the bounty due
certain claimants, enclosed please find
a list of those whose papers were made
out in your office. If they will be at their
office on that day it is my opinion that
they will get the amounts due each one
on their respective certificates

Very respectfully
Your obed. servt.
S. Geisreiter
Lt. Col. C. S. A.

R.O. 9 A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark May 31st/68

Lieut Douglass
Sir.

Will you please inform this office of the whereabouts of Alexander Alford late Co H 16 U.S.C.T. his bounty is allowed and will be paid by Col Pfaff to himself only

Very respectfully

R B I & A
Pine Bluff Ark May 30th 68

Brvt. Col. Henry Cage
Disby. Officer R.B. I. & A.

Sir:

I have the honor
to transmit herewith one set of Clothing Rolls
Rolls for May 1868
I am sir

Very respectfully
Your obdt. servt
S Reinecker
Agt R.B.I.&A.

A. G. & C.

Pine Bluff Ark May 26th 68

Dr. W. L. Parsons
Yates Plantation

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that the following named freedmen now employed to be living on the plantation have bounty due them from Government I will be paid them on Saturday the 6th day of June 1868, will you have the kindness to notify them and if none on your place and can be notified by other freedpeople have them do so, else it will delay the payment to an indefinite period as the agent will be here on that day and will leave again on first boat

Viz. Augustus Grandison
Alf. Yates
Do do sir

Very respectfully
J. Geisreiter
Ag't B. R. F. & A. Ark.

P. P. O. R. R.
Pine Bluff May 30th/68

Wm. Powell
Manager on Taylor Plantation
Sir.

The following named freedmen were supposed to be on the plantation can get the bounty due them from Government by calling at this office on saturday the 6th of June. A. M. when there will be an agent here and [illegible] them.

Alex Kindle
Chas Ebrien
Anderson Ebrien
Levi Ward

Very respectfully
S. Seibrighter
Agt

Bureau R. O. & A.L. for Jefferson C.
Pine Bluff Ark. May 29th/68

1 Lieut. John C. Bennett
A.A.A.G. R.O. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark.

Lieutenant

I have the honor to transmit herewith for the approval of the Assistant Commissioner Special Requisition for Stationary in duplicate for the Quarter ending June 30th 1868 and would request that when approved the same be forwarded to the Commissioner of this Bureau for his order authorizing me to make the issue.

I am Lieutenant

Very respectfully
Your Obt. servt.
S. Leinaweber Capt.

My Requisition for Stationery having been returned by Maury Page A.A.A.G. & D.O. for correction by reason of the issue on October 1st to Asst. S. being in excess of the regular allowance and being directed to make out a Special Requisition in accordance with Regulations provided in Bureau Officers Manual

Stationary in duplicate for the Quarter ending June 30th 1868

Duncan P.O. & al

Pine Bluff June 1st 67

To

Andrew Harris, Wiley Butler, Homestead
Helens & Sallie his wife, & Marshal King

You are hereby notified that in the settlement of the crop for 1863 the woman Betty was ignored and did not get pay for her services rendered. According to strict justice she is entitled to $17.50/100 to be paid her by you which would require the amount of $15.50/100 from each of the above named parties. You will pay her the above amount without delay and take her receipt for the same forthwith without fail

Agt P.B. & al

P.O.A.K.

Camp Bluff Creek June 7th

Hon. D. Cooley Esq.
Agent Arkansas for Ark.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith the papers of the Sac & Fox Indians of the Sac & Fox Agency Chas Peary Clerk in charge

Sam Hinge

Very respectfully
Your obd servt

S. Reynolds
Agt P.O.A.K.

Pine Bluff Ark.
June 1st 68

Maj Gen Sheridan
Comd 5th Dist
Little Rock Ark

Sir:

I have the honor to report that Rev. L. D. Pease has resigned his position as Clerk in this office to date from May 16th 1868 and that his resignation had been accepted by the Commissioner, he is not indebted to the Government and is justly entitled to his pay up to that date

I am sir

Very respectfully
Your obdt servt

Ag. Com Ark

Fine Pine Oak June 7th 1865

Lt. Maj. Genl. [illegible] Genl.

Washington D.C.

General

I have the honor to transmit herewith my Certificate

(2) duly executed as directed in your letter of the 27th ult

[illegible] from July 25/66 to Nov 7th/66

when I was honorably mustered out of the service of the U.S. I deemed it

necessary to make out the claim - that I never served in any other

org anization than the above mentioned - I have received my

final payment as First Lieut of Infantry

I am General

Very respectfully

Your obdt servt.

J. Geisreiter

late 2nd Lieut 5th U.S.C. Cav.

Agent Bureau R.F. & A.L.

A. R. & A.

Pine Bluff Ark. June 8/65

L. D. Pearl Esq.

Crystal Lake Ill.

Dear Sir:

I send you by mail
this day a Money Order No. 640 to the amount
of $1.92 the interest of your salary due for May
less Exchange & Tax. It is made payable
at Chicago it being the nearest money
order office to our Route.

Very respectfully
S. Geisdiker
Agt A R & A.

Bureau of R. E. & A. L. Freedmen
Pine Bluff, Ark. June 1st 1868

First Lieutenant John E. Bennett Asst. A.
A. A. A. Genl. B. R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark.
Lieutenant.

I have the honor to submit the following as my narrative report for the month ending May 31st. 1868

The principal part of the month has been spent in visiting plantations it affords me pleasure to announce the happy relation existing between the people and this office. the freedmen are free to call for advice and assistance and the planters cheerfully comply with the regulations of the Bureau, the employers are manifesting a better feeling toward the freedmen and those still clamorous for old times and the lash are fast becoming less.

The various crops were never more promising than at this time, and it is to be hoped the planters will realize their fondest anticipations concerning the same. The supply of provisions is very limited, many are without meal with no money or credit to procure the same

the health of the freedmen is re-
at present. It is found that when the
sickly season commences many will suffer
as they will not be able to procure medical
aid, the physicians were badly frauded last
year, several have ceased to practice,
and others inform me that they cannot
make visits in the country unless pay
is guaranteed by responsible parties
The City Authorities are taking timely
steps to prevent sickness they are draining
the streets and low places and are causing
the citizens to clean up about their premises
Dr. J. M. Lewis A. A. Surg. of the Bureau
is rendering valuable services to the sickly
freedmen unable to procure medicines and
medical aid elsewhere, by reason of their
poverty.

On the seventh of the month four of the
County Justices came to this office and
requested that Mr Rogers the keeper of the
County Poor House had ceased to provide
for them as he could not procure provisions
for them as he was formerly and as he was
not bound to do. I told them the sheriff
to do something for them, who informed me
that County Court would not sit previous
that the matter had been laid before the
County Court when it was in session to

neglected to make negroes work in the
street the County Judge had left to be cultured
sometime leaving without means.
There being no one to take them in I could
not see the poor creatures lying in the
street emaciated with hunger I sent
them to the Wells building Abundant Rations
and provided them with necessaries of
life for over two weeks, when the City
Council very generously made arrangements
to take them off my hands

Vagrancy

One freedman was tried for vagrancy before
Mayor Borden he had a regular trial by jury
H. King Esq. was employed to defend him
three different juries had to be empannelled
before a proper verdict could be obtained.
the first jury failed to agree, one of the
members on the second was found to be under
twenty one years of age after the jury had
rendered a verdict against the defendant, his
Counsel made a motion for a new trial
which was granted and the jury were sworn
as after the trial decided the defendant guilty
of vagrancy he was fined ten dollars and
cost and has since made himself useful
on the streets of the city to liquidate the
debt. The trial was fairly conducted and
justice done the prisoner. Several idle

and the industrious portion of the colored people are well pleased at the prompt action of the City Authorities

Orphan Asylum — No Orphan minor children have been apprenticed in this county during the month no considerable number ought to be provided with permanent homes. It is a difficult case to fix respectable parties that are in City to obtain homes even for the two girls — one that would can not there being no children in their respective neighborhoods I have found temporary homes for all that came to my notice

Schools — The three schools for freedmen in this district are being well conducted there is a large and regular attendance of scholars I regret that more schools could not have been established there are many children in different neighborhoods that ought to attend school and who would had they an opportunity

Claim Div. — A long list of colored soldiers whose claims for bounty and back pay have been settled by the Department has been furnished by Henry Page Disby. Officer to find out the whereabouts of the parties. The present residence of the majority has been ascertained and a Special Agent will be sent here by the Disby Office on the 6th of June to pay those of the

claimants whose money has been received
from the Chief Disby Officer at Washington
City the balance will be paid here by the
Disby. Officer whenever their money arrives
A large number of claims have been forwarded
by this office and by different Claim Agents
in the City but few of which have thus far
been paid, and since some have been
notified that their money will soon be paid
here, there is considerable excitement among
the rest who cannot understand why others
should get their pay first. a constant run
is being kept up by the freedmen who come
to inquire concerning their respective claims
many are disappointed and greatly
displeased because their claims had not been
heard from or the amount allowed being
smaller than they were told it would be

Clerk Hon L. D. Pease has resigned his position
as clerk in this office to date from May 16th 68
the same has been accepted, and I am
without a clerk, and when I am absent on the
county the office is necessarily closed which
to the annoyance of the people and causing
delay in the transaction of business
My application for a clerk dated May 1st 1868
has not been heard from
The distance traveled on official business
during the month is near two hundred

and twenty five miles.

I Am Lieutenant

Very respectfully
Your obdt servt
S Geisreiter
Agent B R & T R.R.

Bureau R. F. & L.
Pine Bluff June 10th 68.

First Lieut. John C. Bennett 2d A.
A. A. A. Genl. B. R. F. & L.
Little Rock Ark

Lieutenant:

I have the honor to request permission to visit Little Rock on business pertaining to the Bureau

I am Lieutenant
Very respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
S. Casereiter
Agt B. R. F. & L.

A. R. O. & A. L.

Pine Bluff Ark June 11/64

Rev. & Dear Sir Paris

Pastor (Colrd.) Baptist Church

Sir:

Will you

have the kindness to ascertain if you can the whereabouts of the following named freedmen and have their report to this office viz. William James late Pvt Co. C. 10th U.S. Inf.

Newton Evans " " B. 12th U.S. Cav

Robert Courtley " " A. " "

Mary Shirley wife of Isaac Shirley late Pvt Co K 54th Mass. Inf.

Very respectfully

S. Simmerer

Capt A. R. O. & A. L.

P. R. Co. Ark. Pine Bluff June 11/64

Alvin J. Dyer Esq
Agt P. R. Co. Ark
Little Rock. Ark

Sir:

I have the honor to request information concerning the claim of Jerry Smith Co D. 113th Inf. U.S.C.T. Said papers were made out near two years ago by L J Barnes Esq. of your city, he is desirous to ascertain as to whether the claim has been allowed and the money received by the Disbg. Officer

I am sir very respectfully
Your obdt. servt.
S. Geisreiter
Agent P. R. Co. Ark.

Cert. of that Land adjoining A. A. in the name of
Wilson claim for bounty to has been settled

Augustus Landrum	Co	Cert	No 84	393 43	Pty for from 6th $ 24.06
Leonard Hudson	D	"	402 830		
Alex Arnold	"	"	402 874		
Wm Noel	"	"	402 877		
Chas Pulock	1/6	"	402 855		
Moses Pulock	"	"	402 854		
Elisha Waters	"	"	402 856	Pty for from 6th	$ 110.06
Joseph Waters	"	"	402 852	do	110.06
Robert Waters	1/6	"	402 832	do	110.06
Isaac Waters					
Isaac Waters	"	"	402 854	Entered 5 Dec in lieu of	
				Cert. Issued to be sent to	
		"	402 835	as directed	
Isaac Waters	1/6	"	402 858		
John H. Conyers	G	"	402 920		
Allison Donald	1/6	"	411 956		
Jno Gibson	G	"	411 952	Pty for from 6th	$ 220.36
					248.36
Stephen Hatton	"	"	411 953		
Alex Jones	1/6	"	411 958	Pty for from 6th	$ 112.36
Samuel Swift	G	"	411 954		
Elbert Pulock	1/6	"	411 959		
Levi Ward	G	"	411 955	Pty for from 6th	$ 244.36
Joseph Adkinson	"	"	402 919		
Edward Nichols	K	"	402 905		
Anthony Green	"	"	402 914		
Edward Clark	"	"	402 916		

Lewis Winston	Co.	C	362734	Pty + c fed June 6th 65		$102.30
Porter Caldwell	"	"	362745	do		102.30
Ned Davis	"	"	362756	"	June 5th	102.30
Henry Ford	"	"	362763	"		102.30
Anderson Neal	"	"	362777	Money at Pine Bluff		102.30
Ransom Smith	G.	"	366358			
Edward Taylor	B	"	362767	Pty + c fed June 6th 65		102.30
William Taylor	"	"	362740	do		102.30
George Todd	"	"	362738			
Stoddard Thomas	"	"	362733			
Joseph Turner	"	"	362729	141		
Peter Alford	"	"	362724	Money at Pine Bluff		102.30
Ned Polk	"	"	362721	Pty + c fed June 6th 65		100.00
Gabriel Willis	Lt.		376765	do		99.00
Lewis Fishback	A	44th	417571	Money not at Little Rock		
John Foulk	"	"	417570			
Prince Williams	"	"	417564	Whereabouts unknown		
Lewis Armstrong	B.	63	362735	Pty + c fed June 6th 65		$102.30
Sandy Roland	"	"	362742	Memphis Tenn. Money at Pine Bluff		102.30
John Frazier	A.	64	373743	Paid		
John Robinson	"	"	373740			
Dexter Stewart	Lt.	54	402917	Money not at Little Rock.		

Name on the paid off money at Pine Bluff in my hands
Means that their whereabouts are known to this office
When there is no mark the whereabouts of the parties
Proven. Also of the majority of rolls has been forwarded

L. Leonard

✓ Robt Davis	B	63	435.042
✓ Daniel Lee	D.	"	435.061
✓ Anderson Rumley	"	"	435.063
Solomon Clarence	B.	63	435.044
✓ Horace Waters	D.	"	[illegible]
✓ James Williams	"	"	435.059
✓ Samuel Speizer	B	63	435.045
✓ George Sedrick	F	"	435.060
Henry Autety	C	426a	417.651
✓ Thos Crawford	B.	47.	426.466
✓ Henry Cook	C.	"	417.655
✓ John M. Hilton	F.	"	426426
Josiah Smith	B.	"	417631
✓ Lewis Coyshall	D.	"	426424
Anthony Jefferson	"	"	426429
James Wilson of Wm Ingram	E.	113.	425751
✓ Wm Marion	M.	426a	441695
✓ Alexander Alford	"	"	441718
✓ Isam Bond	D.	"	426425 Money mad at Little Rock
✓ Lewis Rogy	E.	64	406821
✓ Benjamin Stiles	"	"	406819
	[illegible]		406814
	[illegible]		[illegible]
✓ [illegible] Cummins			
✓ Lemuel Kearse	"	"	406809
[illegible]	G	"	406843

Name	Co	Regt.	No	Cert.	Remarks
Wm Price	D	64	406849		Residence Little Rock
Shadrach Robinson	D.	4th C.	426420		
Felix Riley	I	"	406493		
Jacob Thompson	A	64	406807		Dead Widow at Iron Hill
Geo Surrentine	A	"	406810		"
Burrell Waters	"	"	406808		

Whaboots Kennon

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark June 13th 68

Maury Pays D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith Lists No 1 & 2 of names of colored claimants whose claims for Rty &c has been settled. The most of the names on List No 1 has been returned before properly checked, not having counterchecked the returned list I could not tell exactly which had been returned.

I am sir

Very respectfully
Your obt. servt
A. Geisreiter Agent.

P. B. & A.
Pine Bluff June. 29th 1858.

Maj Page D.C.
Little Rock Ark

Sir!

I have the honor to report that I have appointed Tuesday July 6th as the day for those of the pensioners whose money is at your office to call at Pine Bluff to receive the same. Next Saturday being Fourth of July I thought it expedient best to appoint that day and to make use of the agents arrival in case the boats should fail to come on account of low water. I will state that the stage leaves Little Rock for Pine Bluff on Monday Morning & on Thursday following for Little Rock

I am sir

Very respectfully &c
L. Lindsley A.P.A.

P. O. No 2 & 4 L.

Pine Bluff Ark July 2nd/68

P. M. Mumbles

Dear Sir:

Will you please let the
bearer Isaac Banks (col'd) have the key to the
store house if the same is in your possession
Please tell him when you will need the
same again and I will send it to you
I desire to make some improvements about
the premises if I can prevail upon the
freedmen to assist me. Shall be pleased to
have you continue your appointments as
the house is at your disposal at any time

Yours sir very respectfully
Your obt servt
J. Lorraine Agt &c.

3327

P. M. 87 Ark

Fort Bluff July 2nd/62

Brig Gen. R. Allen

A. A. Gen. &c &c

Dear Sir

I have to inform you that we have five cases of small pox in camp. I have established a hospital at the above place and removed the persons and the balance of the command from the infected district

I am sir

Very respectfully

Your obt. Svt.

[illegible]

[illegible]

0322

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark July 7/65

Wm. M. Colby Esq.
Supt. of Education for Ark
Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith Mrs. Whitbrooks Report for June of her school on the Creed Taylor Plantation ad Pine Grove. I visited the school on the 26th ult. and find that Mrs Whitbrook has been very successful in her labors during the short period she has been with us. Her scholars have advanced rapidly in their studies, many having never been to school previous to the session just closed. It is to be regretted that Mrs Whitbrook cannot remain with us longer, she is beloved by all that know her, irrespective of party or race.

No letters from the schools of Messrs Lyman
and Cook for last month have been
received at this office

I am sir

Very respectfully
Your obdt servt
S. Chandler
Agent P. P. & C.

Bureau of R. F. & C. L.
Pine Bluff Ark. July 7/68

Maury Pay. A. A. C. S.
Bureau R. F. & C. L.
Little Rock Ark

Sir:

I have the honor to forward herewith for the approval of the Asst Comr. Corrected Vouchers to Abstract "C" for forage issued by me during the month of January 1868. The issues on the original vouchers was duly approved by the Assistant Commissioner but the certificate of Surg. J. M. Lewis & that of D. Gunckler Agent. not being made in the manner prescribed in the Bureau Officers Manual the same was returned from Washington for correction

I am sir very respectfully &c

D. Gunckler Agt. R.L.

Bureau B. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark July 5th 68

Messrs Goodrich, Belcher, & Montgomery
Lake Providence Louisiana.

Gentlemen

I have the honor to request information concerning the claim of Richard Hamlin Post Co. L. 7th U.S.C.C. so to whether his claim has as yet been settled by the department he holds your receipts for his discharge an early answer is respectfully solicited

I am Gentlemen
Very respectfully
Your obdt servt
S. Spooner
Agent B. B. & A. L.

Bureau of B.A. & C.A.
Pine Bluff Ark July 9/68

Henry Page A.A.G. & D.C.
Bureau R. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith my Monthly Return of Refugees & Freedmen for the month ending April 30th 1868

I am sir
Very respectfully
Your obdt. servt.
S. Geisreiter
Agent B.R. & A.L.

Henry Page & Co. & 20
Bureau R. I. & al
Circuit Court
Kent

Sir:

I have the
honor to transmit herewith my account
as Bureau Store for the month
ending May 31st 1868
Sworn to

Very respectfully
Your obt servt
S. Sinnickson
Agent B R F & L

Bureau R. F. & L.

Fort Pluck July 9th 1868

Henry Page A. A. G. O.

C. R. C. F. & L.

Little Rock Ark

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith my monthly return of Bureau property for the 2d Q. ending June 30th 1868

I am sir

very respectfully

Your obt. Servt.

S. Swineford

Agent. C. R. C. F. & L.

Duncan K. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark. July 2nd 1868

Maj Gen O. O. & D.C.

Fort Pierre July 11/68

Maj Genl A.G.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith for your approval Vouchers Postage $16.55 - rendered for the 1st to June 30th/68. Fine and the amount in currency by the agent Total $21" on one bill on the 18th of May the bounties allowed, as per your notice of the 9th inst. also the amount due on the Vouchers for June returned this day for your approval

very much

I have &c

Your obt Servt
S. Ziriacks Capt.

P. B. & A. L.
Pine Bluff July 11/65

T. B. Young Esq.
Little Rock

Sir.

I have the honor to transmit herewith one of the affidavits sent here by you for completion the same was mislaid and overlooked the communication was returned I regret it very much as it may delay you in your business but trust that the same is in time

Yours very respectfully
S. Gaines
Agent P. B. & A. L.

Bureau of R. M. & Freedmen &c
Fort Buford Dak. 1870

Name of Claimant	Co.	Regt.	Capt.	Enlisted	By whom	Remarks
Charles Love	M.	4th			Proyer & Jedrick 40 Forth Front st.	
Edward Pettigrew	"	"			"	"
Frank Sweeny	"	"			"	"
John Sneath	"	"			"	"
Henry Tyler					"	"
Madison Barnett		54th			"	"
David Mutchinson	C.	54th	Lieut		"	"
Peter Hurd					"	"
Geo. Whitby	C	64		July 1/66	"	"
Carolina Jordan					"	"
Widow of Col Jordan	A	64			"	"
Carrick Woods	D.	61st		July 1st 66	M. Combs Jr. 766	
Carrol Price	L.	59th		June 15/66	"	"

All of the above claims I am informed were filed in 1866 and ought [illegible] to be settled ere this.

I am sir very respectfully &c.

[illegible] Claim Agent Co K 7 O.L.

Circulation No. 8

Little Rock Ark.

June 30th 1868

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith the accompanying report for the month ending June 30th 1868.

The principal part of the month I have been remaining at my office there being considerable business to transact and my health not good enough to attend to riding in the sun. On the second of July I visited Little Rock by invitation and delivered an address before the Democratic Club of that city. I found the people generally [illegible]

[illegible] generally of the office
[illegible] the laborers [illegible]
[illegible] ever [illegible] frequently [illegible]
[illegible] would [illegible] for [illegible] months
others before them [illegible]
[illegible] Some [illegible] of [illegible]
[illegible] them, it being [illegible]
by an [illegible] [illegible] practicable
[illegible] to [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible]

some of the former civil war
claims of our citizens [illegible] and
no redress can be had at law on their
behalf they having no lien on the
crop by reason of their contracts being
generally verbal and in the years on
otherwise deficient. It is therefore necessary
that something should speedily be done
by the present legislature for the
further protection of the faithful,
but ignorant and dependent laborer
While many may deal honestly by their
employes yet the opportunity for intrigue
and rascality is great and judging the
future by the past it will doubtless be
extensively practiced unless checked
by proper legislation.

There are in this city and the
one on the East Virginia Plantation
at New Gascony all now closed and
the teachers have gone north during
vacation. The new school house at this
place has been well taken care of
and with the exception of a few
broken panes of glass is in good
condition. I have held the keys to the
building in my possession.

Sterling

As the common advantages and
pleasures among those of the freedmen
who during the preservation of health
by the Sanitary regimen as may come
annually greatly consume similar
food and vegetables regardless of consequences
Many are obliged because of their poverty
to subsist wholly upon vegetables and
corn bread and not being always
choice in the selection of the former
necessarily suffer the penalties of
Nature for the violation of its laws

Lewis Lincoln

[illegible] Lewis
[illegible] claimants [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of Nelson
[illegible] county is now in the hands of the
Freedmens Bureau at Little Rock who
[illegible] sending a special agent
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to any of the
same [illegible] claimants there.
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] highly claimes in all that
have been [illegible] [illegible] the money
received by us is ready for payment
to resident freedmen of this county,
[illegible] all [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] forwarded by this

the delay in the settlement of these accounts
seems to be extraordinary. I would request
it to be stated that the Secretary will com-
municate directly to the Indian Agent
the disposition of this money.

Very respectfully
Your obedient servant
O. Lewis
Agent P.B. & A.

Pocahontas Ark. & L.R.R.

Sept 30th 1868

Pocahontas Ark. & L.R.R.

Little Rock Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to transmit herewith Requisition for Attorney in duplicate for the Quarter ending September 30th 1868. I make the Requisition for three months in order to avoid delay in procuring the Attorney and to save costs in transportation.

I am sir

Very respectfully
Your obdt. servt.
A. Saunders
Agent P.R.R.R.

Boston Mass
Dec 15th 1858

Henry Clay Esq
Washington
D.C.

Dear Sir

I have the honor to enclose herewith
a receipt of the 7th inst. for the 14th inst. Sight draft
in favor of Edward Bradley, also my check on the Merchants
National Bank of this City for $1189.40/100 amount due him
& have acknowledged receipt of this

I am Sir

Very respectfully
Your most obt servt
D. Ellis Walker
Late U.R.S. A.L.

R. R. & L.

Pine Bluff July 21st 68

Henry Page P.O.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your check No 1795 on Merchants National Bank of Little Rock for Eleven 25/100 dollars payable to L. Page & Bro.

I am sir

Very respectfully
Your Obt servt
S. Reinecker
Agent R. R. & L.

S. Reinecker
Agent R. R. & L.

Private P. O. Box
Fort Buford July 1st 61

Maj. Gen. A. A. G.
Dept P. B. Vic.
Saint Paul

R. R. Co. et al
Pine Bluff July 30th 68

Mr Caswell Price (atty)
Scull & Putnam Place
Jefferson Co. Ark

Sir

You are hereby notify to call at this office without delay to execute an additional affidavit for the purpose of completing the evidence necessary to the final settlement of your claim for back freight bounty in the hands of Mr Crumb Jr. & Co. Memphis Tenn. The expense will be fifty cents

Respectfully
S. Gaither
Agent R. R. Co et al

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
In Jefferson Co.
Pine Bluff Ark. July 31st 1868

Maj. Genl. O. O. Howard
Commissioner Washington D.C.

General.

I have the honor to transmit herewith corrected Vouchers to Abstract G. pertaining to my return of Bureau stores for January 1868 for forage issued to Surgeon J. M. Lewis and S. Geisreiter Agent. The same were returned by Henry M. Whittlesey Chief C. M. of this Bureau for correction, the certificates not being made out in the manner prescribed in the Bureau Officers Manual.

I am General

Very respectfully
Your obdt Servt
S. Geisreiter Agt.

Roll 19

Target 5

SUBORDINATE FIELD OFFICES
Pine Bluff (Jefferson County)

Press Copies of Letters Sent
Volume 2 (145) May 1867–Dec. 1867

Volume pages were filmed sequentially.
Blank pages were not filmed.



Ap. 3/13 Ø

A-6

Pine Bluff. Ark

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Born May 27/67

Dec 31/67

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Names	Places	Pages

Names	Places	Pages

1/1/

Fortress R. C. & Ord.
Pine Bluff Ark May 21/65

Bvt Brig. Genl. John E. Bennett
A. A. A. G. R. C. & Ord.
Little Rock Arkansas

General:

I have the honor to request that this office be furnished with the following Circulars in order to complete the files of the same

War Department Bureau R. F. & A. L. Series of 1866
Numbers 1, and all numbers above 10;
Series of 1867 numbers 1, 6, and all number above 14

Assistant Commissioners Office Series of 1865 & 66.
Numbers 16, 24, 25, 26, 30.
Series of 1867 all over number seven of circulars published by Bvt. Maj. Genl. C. O. G. Ord. & numbers 4, 5, 6, of Current Series

I am General

Very respectfully
Your obdt. servt.
A. Geiger Lieut & Asst A. A. G.

Q. B. Office
Dear Sir, 1 May 28th

Sir

I am directed by the Board to inform
you that the plan now in the enclosed
sent in on the Bank Gravesend Station
is not such as they can approve
as it does not afford sufficient room
for the traffic, which will be required on this
line when the measure will be adopted as the circumstances
of the case may demand. Improvements, Additions and
alterations to Stations will at all times be tolerated and
assisted as far as they can be done consistently with the
efficient working of the traffic. All disputes or difficulties that may
arise between the Companies
to be referred to the Commissioners. But
in case it be found impossible for Companies to agree
upon any

I am

Boston
Miss Shuttleworth Jany 29/6

Miss Penny Garrison
Hotel rue Neuve St Augustin

Madam.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note & hasten to do what I can under present circumstances. I trust that the ingress in your country will take timely warnings & thereby avoid the loss & trouble. I regret the unwillingness of my interference but shall be happy to exhibit how well I can in the present.

Your Respectfully
Jno Shuttleworth
U. S. Consul
&c &c &c

8

10
10

B. G. F. & A.
Pine Bluff Ark May 29/67

Mr. Bryant
Watersecke Bayou
Jefferson Co. Ark

Sir:

The Superintendent being informed that you have in your employ two freedmen named Isaac Davenport, Bob Barnett, & Mays Blackman & that the same are now living on your premises you are hereby directed to cause those freedmen to come with Pope Barrow Esq & to have your premises in time to meet Mr Barrow at his plantation known as the Shepherds Plantation by eight o clock saturday morning June 1st/67 to come with him direct to this office.

I am sir

Very respectfully
Your obdt Servt
S. Geisreiter
Lt & Asst B R & FdAL

B. B. O. & Co.

Pine Bluff Ark. May 30th 67

C. Haskell Esq
Haskell Plantation
Jefferson Co. Ark.

Sir:

You are hereby notified to appear at this office at your earliest convenience for the purpose of settling the account of Edmund Hobdy(?) who states that you owe us and owed him a settlement, being necessary for his purposes

I am sir

Very respectfully
Your obdt servt.
S. Geisreiter
Dy Agt B B R. O. & Co

R. S. Bolt Esq.
Pine Bluff Ark. May 8th

Wm Rogers Smith Esq.
Cotton Plantation
Jefferson Co. Ark.

Sir.

It having been reported that Edward Moore (col'd) has a child in your plantation named Henrietta Moore now living with his mother his former wife, & as it is also reported that the said Edward Moore is now employed & well able to support the child you are hereby directed to furnish that child Henrietta to come before me & state your objections in writing on this letter which will be by you returned to me returned to this office with your knowledge of the case indorsed thereon

Very respectfully
Your obt. Servt
R. Crittenden
Superintendent of Ind. Affairs

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

I propose investigating the matter at an early day. I have reason to believe that some of the property is not properly described as to ownership and location, and it will be difficult to obtain satisfactory information.

I am General

Very respectfully
Your obt. Servt
L. Geisweiler
Lt. Col. 2d Inf.

Bureau B. F. & A.L.
Fine Bluff Ark. June 3rd 186[illegible]

Bvt Brig. Genl. Jno. C. Kennett
A. A. A. Genl. B. F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark.

General:

I have the
honor to transmit herewith my Monthly Report
of Refugees & Freedmen also a Roster of Officers
on duty in the Bureau at this place during the
month ending the 31st day of May 1867

Very Respectfully
Your obdt. Servt
A. Gibbs
Bvt Capt & A.A.G. F.A.L.

20

Bureau of R. F. & L.
For Jefferson County Ark
Pine Bluff Ark June 4th 1867

Sir: I have the honor to respectfully request that you furnish this office with a report of Indentures of Apprenticeship for Freedmen Freed Children that have been approved by you during the month ending the 31st day of May 1867 You will please comply with this request as your earliest convenience and oblige

Very respectfully
Your obt servt
S. Crimmins
Lieut & Supt R. F. & L.

A

Hon. Judge of the Probate Court
for Jefferson Co. Ark.

Pine Bluff Ark

Brig Gen. Jno. B. Sanborn
Ad. A. Genl. D. C. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark.
General:

I have the
honor to state that I am not yet enabled
to complete my
Monthly Report of Schools by reason of the
schools in Jefferson County
The roads are in very bad
condition which is the cause. The
teachers at that
you been
prompted in
same
Gen'l General

I have respectfully
your Obt. Svt.
Geissler
Lieut. & Agent &c

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

I have the honor
to the following as my narrative report
for the month of May 1867.

During the first part of the month I was on a
tour of inspection in obedience to Special Orders
No 11 C. S. Asst Commissioners office the result
of which I reported in detail; see report dated May 14. 67.
On the 15th ult I was directed in Special Orders
No 15 C. S. to relieve Bvt Maj W.m J Davies 2nd Lieut.
43 Infantry as Agent of the Bureau at Pine Bluff.
where I arrived on the 16th ult. and after assuming
charge of the office and receiving the property and
necessary instructions from my predecessor, I proceeded
to comply with instructions contained in Special
Orders No 11. C. S. (See report dated May 23d 1867)

On the 22nd of May I resumed my labors in the
office at Pine Bluff and found that ... such as
business awaited my action it having accumulated
during the illness of Bvt Maj W.m Davies, and during
my absence to Hamburg. the most of which has been

[illegible] of and the meeting of business
[illegible] to complete of the [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] meeting much delay
in the mails and necessarily interfere with the
proper transaction of business - I can understand
[illegible] of the business of the office or to
cause as little inconvenience to the people as
possible. knowing that owing to the inclemency
of the season every day in the field, is of this
time of the utmost importance -

Complaints are constantly being made by
persons who deem themselves aggrieved, many
of which are found to be groundless - I am taking
pains to instruct them, that the object of the
Bureau is not to gratify them in their many petty
whims and fancies, but to protect them in their
just rights and to assist them in obtaining a
proper knowledge of their duties as citizens - in
order to enable them to manage their own
affairs at an early day -

There is no record in the office of any
Indictments of Officers for fraudulent [illegible]
being made by Post Masters over the
world, and referred by the Auditor
Court for Examination - I have sent a similar
request to the Clerk of the Circuit Court for

a report, and am informed by them that no interference during the month of May.

Our Learning and Poly are employed one on Sea Island, one at Beaufort, and are properly cultivated. Eleven have not been acted upon by reason of the unwillingness of either one or the other of the parties to comply with existing regulations. Circular No 33 par 2. Series of 1866 has been strictly complied with. Circular No 8. A. G. O. is highly appreciated by the planters, many of whom have felt greatly annoyed for some time past, and are now more reluctant in furnishing employment to idle persons in their hands. Many of the freedmen are said to have already mortgaged their crop beyond its probable value.

It is believed that several of the persons who have rented lands, made contracts with freedmen to work the same for a share of the crop will not be called for until the crop is ready for market, and will be found to be of little or no value to the cultivator or owner of the land.

There are many instances of very poor persons who are entirely unable to secure funds under the homestead law, approved by the President June 21st 1866 but are reasonably able to take advantage

of the law. [illegible] of those desiring to be furnished with instructions relative thereto.

I have the report of W. W. Greenleaf Esq. Surveyor P.L. to me to the 1st Comm. dat. [illegible] but am not able to obtain further information relative to more recent developements as to be more fully able to advise the freedmen and [illegible] secure a homestead for them

One tract of Abandoned Land in this county of Cass Bureau has been restored during the month by virtue of Special Order No 18. par 6. S.O. - The record in this office is not sufficiently explicit to enable me to ascertain much about the lands and tenements now in the hands of the Bureau as abandoned [illegible] Jefferson County. The rents have been collected by my predecessor or any of this property. I purpose investigating the matter at an early day, and have reason to believe that some of the property is not properly described as to ownership and location.

I am gratified at the general conclusion of affairs in this county. but there are [illegible] small and trifling have been reported to me. In all the [illegible] have had no occasion to institute legal [illegible] against any person. it is my desire [illegible] a compromise when at all practicable and thereby keep the freedmen from unnecessary trouble and offense

[illegible]

[illegible] signed hereby acknowledge
[illegible] received of [illegible]
[illegible] amount of [illegible] account against
[illegible] with the said Lewis in full

Daniel (X) Lewis
mark

Witness
[illegible]

Witness
[illegible]

	$ 111.
	36. 10
	3. 10
	136. 10
	$ 103. 10

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark June 10th 1867

Wm M Colby Esqr
Genl Sup't &c.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit my semi-monthly report of the operations of this office for the month of May 1867. I have the pleasure of making this report on the account of not receiving the report of three days violation of Treasury Circular No. 213. I have reported the balance the same as it was reported for April -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
L. Steinmetz
Asst. Agent B.R.F. & A.L.

Bureau A. F. & A. L.
Fort Bluff Ark June 18th 1867

Ben Cox Has proof
of Discharge
Sent Capt. A. L.

I have the honor
to report respectfully
for your information
S. Seward
Asst. Agent Ref. & Lds.

Pine Bluff June 18th 1867

Bureau R F & A L
Pine Bluff Ark
July 19th 1867

Robert Jones Colrd
Pine Bluff Ark

Sir

You are hereby ordered to appear at this office forthwith & then

Asst Supt & Agent B R F & A L

Bureau of I. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark
June 19th 1867

Lt Osborne Malone cal
Pine Bluff Ark

You are hereby ordered
to appear at this office without
delay.

Lieut & Asst B.R.C. & A.L.

Bureau B.F. & L.
Pine Bluff Ark
June 17th 1865

Dr Genl Dix Evans
A.A. Gen & Dept
In charge of Freedmens Hospitals
Sir

I have the honor
I request that you will call at this
office at your earliest Convenience

Very respectfully
Your obt. Servt

Lieut & Capt U.S.V. A.A.G.

Bureau R. F'd &c.
Pine Bluff Ark. June 17th. 1865

Bvt Brig Genl Jno. A. Bennett
A. A. A. G. Bureau R. F'd &c.
Little Rock. Ark.

General

I have the honor to transmit herewith the following papers pertaining to duty in the Bureau for the month of May ult.

Monthly Returns of R. Fr. Elem. Supplies
Inventory of Property

Bureau [illegible]
Post Office [illegible]

Brt Brig Gen Jno C. Bennett,
A. A. G. F. Bureau R. F. & L.
Little Rock Arkansas,

General

I have the honor to transmit herewith the following papers pertaining to the Bureau for the month of [illegible]

[illegible]

Little Rock Arkansas,
January 1st 1866

General,

I have the honor to transmit herewith the following papers pertaining to duty in the Bureau for the month of January 1866 viz.

Monthly Return of Bureau Officers
Duplicate
Monthly Return of Bureau Property
Duplicate
Abstract of Issues of Subsistence Stores
Duplicate
Abstract of Issues of Forage
Duplicate
Abstract of Issues of Fuel
Duplicate
Abstract of Issues of Quarters
Duplicate
Abstract of Issues of Medicines
Duplicate
Abstract of Issues of Hospital Stores
Duplicate
Abstract of Issues of Clothing
Duplicate
Abstract of Issues of Camp & Garrison Equipage
Duplicate
Abstract of Issues of Ordnance Stores
Duplicate
Abstract of Issues of Horses
Duplicate
Abstract of Issues of Mules
Duplicate
Abstract of Issues of Wagons
Duplicate
Abstract of Issues of Harness
Duplicate
Abstract of Issues of Saddles
Duplicate
Abstract of Issues of Bridles
Duplicate
Abstract of Issues of Saddle Bags
Duplicate
Abstract of Issues of Horse Equipments
Duplicate
Abstract of Issues of Mule Equipments
Duplicate
Abstract of Issues of Harness
Duplicate
Abstract of Issues of Saddles
Duplicate
Abstract of Issues of Bridles
Duplicate
Abstract of Issues of Saddle Bags
Duplicate
Abstract of Issues of Horse Equipments
Duplicate
Abstract of Issues of Mule Equipments
Duplicate

The approval of the Superintendent is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully
Your obedient servant
[illegible]

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A.
Fmo Bluff, Ark.
June 19th 1867

Lieut. Brig. Genl. Asst. Genl.
Little Rock Ark.

I am Sir

Bureau R. F & L.L.
Fort Belknap Mt June 20th 1867

[illegible]

Colonel

[illegible]

[illegible] requiring the [illegible] of the same as per your instructions of the 14th inst.

Very respectfully
Your obt Svt
A. Geisendike
A. Agent B.R.F. & L.L.

R. R. O. & A. R.
Pine Bluff Ark. June 15

Dr. Jno. A. McLewis

Dear sir:

This afternoon Mr. Byron ago he has been shot through the hand yesterday evening and wishes to get his wound dressed. How the shooting was done, without any cause or provocation on his part, seems to be a malicious outrage on the part of the party. I am sorry to write with regret of Straughn to the Byron and hint to you, knowing that you will not turn from your duty in discharge of your duty. I am unable to write, will probably be unable to secure the evidence.

Yours respectfully
J. Scarborough
Asst. Surg. R. R. O. & A. R.

P. O. Box 44
Pine Bluff Ark June 20/67

Bvt. Maj. Louis H. Marshall 25th U.S. Inf.
Comdg. Post of Pine Bluff

Major:

I have the honor respectfully state that complaint has been made to me by Reynard Brown (col'd) states that he was deliberately shot on yesterday by a white man, a stranger to him, for no cause or provocation on his part. The criminal is supposed to be a non resident, can be identified by the said Brown I would request to be furnished with three mounted & ~~foot~~ saddle horse troops for the negro to ride as it will be necessary to take him along to identify the man when found. If so wish to start as soon as it is so rainy now I could be ready by 9 A.M. for I think it will

Respectfully &c
L. Lieuvelle
1st Lieut 7th Cav. A.D.C.

A. R. S. & Co.
Pine Bluff Ark July 1st 67

Bvt Maj. Louis T. Morris 28th U.S. Inf.
Comdg. Post of Pine Bluff

Major:

I have the honor
to submit to the requisition for pro-
per Funds in favor of your approval.

Very Respectfully
Your obt Servt
L. Caswell
Capt 3rd U.S. Cav.
A. A. A. G. R. S. & Co.

[illegible]

J. Smith Esq.
Agent for Rely Johnson

Sir.

[illegible] you have refused to give
to mine any further allowance of food
&c, than is with [illegible] I understand
I must therefore in order to procure
the [illegible] to buy. This is not [illegible]
on your part neither can such [illegible]
be allowed by this office [illegible]
more proper & expedient is [illegible]
compliance with the contract on [illegible]
the parties of the second part I should [illegible]
their duty

I am sir

Your respectfully
Your obdt Servt
[illegible]

B. C. P. & Ad Fort Bluff
July 1st 1863

Lieut Dra McL. Barton 28th Ill. Inf.
A. A. G. Fort of Fort Bluff
Lieutenant

I have the honor to respectfully request information as to whether you can furnish me the amount of forage called for in my requisition for June and the grain in kind to pay back what I borrowed. If you can not furnish the forage in kind please return the requisitions so that I can apply for authority to purchase
& oblige

Very respectfully
Your obt. Servt.
E. Scisreiter
Lieut & Agent B. C. & A.

Bureau, R. F. & L.

Nine Months ending July 1st. 1867

Asst Comr Genl. Finance Branch.

A. A. A. Genl R. F. & L.

Little Rock Ark.

General

I have the honor to
transmit herewith a statement
for the month of January
by the Bureau of Refugees
Abstract &
Vouchers to Abstract 2.
Voucher to Abstract 3.
Voucher to Abstract 4.
Voucher to Abstract 5.
Voucher to Abstract 6.

I am
Sir
Your obedient
Servant

19

Bureau R. F & A.L.
Port Bluff Ark July 1st 1864

Bvt Brig Genl Jno E Bennett.
A. A. A. Genl B. R. F & A.L.
Little Rock Ark,
Genl,

I have the honor to transmit herewith Monthly Return of Quartermaster's Stores on hand for the month of June 1864.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt

Lt. Agent B. R. F & A.L.

Bureau R. F. & L.,
Pine Bluff Ark July 1st 1867

Bvt Brig Genl Jno E Bennett,
A. A. A. Genl B. R. F. & L.,
Little Rock Ark,
General

I have the honor
to transmit herewith Monthly Returns of
C. S. & Q. Equipage for the month of June
1867,

Very respectfully
Your obt Svt

Agent in charge

Statement of Facts
Prisoner Brought before Judge

Brig Gen Jno Edmonson
A. A. Gen. R. A. 1824
Little Rock Ark

General

I have the honor to transmit
herewith Monthly Report of Prisoners
for the month of June 1824

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
[illegible]
Lt. Colo 1st U.S. Rifle Regt

Brevet c. [illegible]
Hd. Qrs. [illegible] Feby 1st 1867

Bvt Brig Genl Jno C Bennett.
Col. 1st Col. Genl, U. S. Vols &c.
Little Rock Ark.

General.

I have the honor to transmit herewith Muster Rolls of the 1st Regt U.S. Engineers and Troops pertaining to the Brevet Maj Genl U.S.A. for the Quarter ending June 30th 1867.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
[illegible]
Lt. Colonel U.S.A.

P. P. & A.
Pine Bluff Ark July 2nd 76

Rollins Esq
Agt & Plantation
Jefferson County Ark

Sir:

I have the honor to state that one Harriet Drurey makes complaint to this office that you have certain articles of household goods in your possession which she claims to be her property & says that you are unlawfully detaining the same. You are hereby directed to deliver the said property to Harriet Drurey without delay or else that she has no right to claim the same. You will please comply with this immediately thereby avoiding further trouble

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
J. Geisenheimer
Lieut & Agt P B & A

Brevet Lt. Col & A.D.C.
Fort Duffs Arkansas 2. 1813

Lieut Col Henry Page
Com'd 1st Regt. U.S. Infty &c.
Fort Jackson

Colonel

I have the honor to
transmit herewith requisitions per Ordinary
& Quartermaster, which I would respectfully request
you to forward to me at your earliest convenience,
for my Colonel

I am very respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
J. Meriwether
Asst. Agent Subs. & A.C.

control. but they neglected to take any steps in the matter although they knew for some two weeks previous to the transfer of the Lot that said Mr [illegible] was trying to negotiate for the same. but Wm Bell gave the church the preference.

The Lot was sold sometime during the past winter to Mrs Betty McGregor wife of Pat McGregor and the Title Bond does not mention anything about the building being reserved. and Mrs McGregor claims it as her property and is using it as a Homestead.

Some two or three months ago Joseph Kelly (col) sued Pat McGregor before Eugene Cleveland J.P. in this City for work done on said building and obtained a judgement for $170cts - Some time in June last an execution was issued on the above judgement and the building was sold on said execution as the property of Pat McGregor and purchased by said Kelly for $50cts - Mrs McGregor refuses to give up the building claiming it as her property by virtue of said Title Bond -

I would respectfully state that said Constable this office at different times as to the way and means of obtaining his pay. and had to follow out the instructions given him at this office

Brevet 1st Lieut
Asst Surgeon U.S.A.

Asst Surgeon
Off Dr Medical Bd U.S.A.
Little Rock Ark.
Colonel

I have the honor to
transmit herewith Vouchers for forage purchased
by you under with Receipts signed for the same -
Also Account Stock for the amount on hand
January.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
L. Heinrichter
Asst Surgeon U.S.A.

L. R. P. & Ad.

Pine Bluff July 5th 1867

Brl. Genl. Henry Page
Chf. Q. M. C. R. P. & Ad.
Little Rock Ark

Sir I have the honor to [illegible] Q. M. Vouchers for [illegible] and respectfully ask for information as to [illegible] when further steps to be taken [illegible] Brl. Genl. I should like to secure the amount asked for if at all possible and take the first to [illegible] in so doing

I am Colonel

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
A. Geisreiter
Lieut & Asst Adt Genl

A. G. Ex. Col.
Camp Bluff Springs [illegible]

Genl Col. Henry Sibley
Brig Gen. C. S. A. Comdg
Fort Craig N.M.

Colonel

I have the honor to transmit herewith for your information and the following Return of Ordnance & Ordnance Stores in my charge on the Actual Expedition which starting recently in Texas, visited New Mexico

I am Colonel

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
S. Eberle
Lieut & Actg A. A. Q. M.

P. C.

Pine Bluff Ark ... 6 4/6

Paul Pine ... Esq.

Sir:

I re-
t respectfully ... that the duplicate
... are not yet filed in
this ... neither have I ever seen the
... you allege the name of
... the second
fact. I ... and promptly
if ... causing him to
return to comply with ...
but can not well do it until existing
... plied with. Your
... duplicate copies forward them
with the originals to this ... so that I can
certify to the correctness of them when I will do
... whatever is necessary to enforce the same.

Very Respectfully

Bureau R. R. & L.
Pine Bluff Ark. July 6th 18[illegible]

Lt. Master
Memphis Tenn.

Sir:

I have the honor to respectfully
request that you will give me the Time & Distance
to the different points on the [illegible] and
[illegible] below. I desire to [illegible]
to [illegible] make orders for the removal of the Contrabands from
the present [illegible] to the [illegible]

Respectfully

B. L. & L.
Pine Bluff Ark July 11/69

You are hereby notified to ap. —
to this office with Dr B. L & R
at once fail not at your peril

To Peter White (colo) S. Guisreiter
Sup. [illegible] Lieut & [illegible] B. L. & R.
Alexander Jones
Witness [illegible]

Same [illegible] to take cognizance of [illegible]
and the [illegible] of all communications that he is promptly [illegible] with and pay
[illegible] by [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Bureau R. F. & L.
Fort Bluff Oct July 16th 1867

Bvt Maj Gen Jno Ellerson
Asst Adjt Gen Bureau R F & L
Little Rock Ark

General.

I have the honor to report that on the 10th inst by a freedman named Daniel Reynolds. I was stated that about two o'clock on the night of the 9th inst two rebels came to his house and the Brodie plantation in the northern portion of my district and with pistols in hand knocked him to pull on his shoes and come out of the house. that they wanted to talk with him. he refused to comply and says that he was afraid they intended to [illegible] him. they then ordered him to make a light in the house and ordered that he should come out. he refused to do so. they then broke open the door and dragged him out. they then ordered him to go with them. he refused to go. they then told him that if he did not go they would shoot him. he still refused to go. they then told him that if he did not go they would shoot him. he still refused to go. they then told him that if he did not go they would shoot him. he still

had anything to say to him that he always made it a practice to come inside of the house. At this the two white men became indignant and insisted that he must come out anyhow; when he told them that he was not coming out but was going to bed which he did. The men then came into the house and with pistols armed at his head swore that they would take him out, ordered us to the last to get him to get up and get out of bed and refusing to be so Riley to fall out with his gun if he did not and shoot him. At that the men went to the door as with new vigor and commenced shooting towards Riley's house which was but a few rods distant. Daniel Reynolds then ran behind the door to get his gun when the men commenced shooting at him also. during the affray the discovery happened to be taken when Daniel Reynolds ran out and made his escape and fled down to Pine Bluff. I took his statement and writing, made a requisition on the County Officers of the state for two mounted soldiers and one unarmed man to go for the negro to make, for I found it would be necessary to take him along to identify the parties when found

the settlers were promptly furnished but could get no relief -

I arrived on the Brazil plantation at two o clock P.M. on the 10th inst - from the statements of Wm Jabez R. King, Riley Reynolds (colored) and Susanna Reynolds (colored) I was led to believe that a Wm Warren Drake and a Francis Chuck were the parties that were at Daniel Reynolds house on the night of the 9th inst. I also had been on the plantation on the 8th and 9th inst in search of a negro named David Davis who had shot another freedman on the Wall plantation in Pulaski County. both Daniel Reynolds and his wife agreed that they were the ones that had been there that night. I was informed that they lived in Pulaski County some twelve or fifteen miles up the river - the roads being very bad and my horses too much fatigued to go further. I remained until the next morning when I procured a mule for Daniel Reynolds and went to the house of Wm Warren Drake to further investigate the case - I was fully prepared to arrest if necessary both him and Wm Chuck. Wm Chuck had left for Arkadelphia that morning. and Wm Drake had been at his house but a short

home previous to my arrival. was told by Mrs Drake that he had gone to the field. I then afterwards informed was that Mrs Drake had just gone to the house. I returned but he was not there. I searched the premises thoroughly but to no purpose. I afterwards informed was that Mrs Drake was at Squire Watts house where I would certainly find him. I went there & got there I was again informed that he had just left. I went for a fifth time & was informed by the parties at the house as to where he had gone - both the Negroes and white agreed in having seen Mrs Drake that afternoon. but they either could or would not tell me where I could probably find him. By that time I was getting late & not expecting injury I was advised that I could not stay all night in that neighbourhood. the people flocking poverty and sickness as is known. I have to go near two miles to find the house of Dr E. A. Hague who lives one returned

Early on the morning of the 18th I went again at Mrs Drakes house but he had not returned - Mrs Drake said she had not seen him since the day before and knew not where he was or why he was absent. I made diligent inquiry among

[illegible] the enemy [illegible] with no better success than at [illegible]

A similar fleet [illegible] consisted of the ship that was shot by Daniel Drew. Colonel Farmer's ship & the remainder of the vessels with six broken. The Gun Boat Grampus and Spitfire approached to the right- and came within a severe flash opened on us - She has not yet quarrelling about [illegible]

Colonel Neal Davis who was prepared deliberately shot Stevens. The French were afraid to conduct the Siamese into the Bi river.

Mr Gordon Craig informed me that Messrs Dowdle and Edwards [illegible] that they voluntarily surrendered to and took the oath of allegiance to the United States Government & that they [illegible] having under the impression that he had declared by this means [illegible] they came at night to his house & that they had remained the night & [illegible] & they were there only for [illegible] shot at by the negroes and others to [illegible] themselves by absenting [illegible] scare them off. Mr Craig was [illegible] of the St. Landry County Militia and [illegible] Dowdle was his first Lieutenant [illegible] the organization is now broken up -

Mr Craig assures me that both Mr Drake and Mr Check are honorable men and say that they would have obtained a warrant for the arrest of this negro Davis but that the Justices of the Peace who had jurisdiction in the premises were not at home and that they were afraid the negro would make his escape. thereby thwarting proceeding in this summary manner.

Dr C. P. Hogue of Pulaski Co. informs me that the General Commanding has given him verbal orders to have the former members of this Co. A. Militia to go ahead and reorganize themselves on duty the same as when organized, and to organize again as soon as practicable.

Having obtained full information in the case and as both Mr Drake and Check were absent from home could not be found. I returned to Fort Smith on the 12th inst and waited respectfully submit the above for the consideration of the Assistant Commissioner.

I am General

Very respectfully
Your ob't Serv't
S. Granville
Lieut Col 1st Ark. Cav'y

B. Co Dg AL
Pine Bluff Ark July 22nd 65

Post Qm Miller Co. I. 28 Cav
is hereby ordered to proceed without delay and
arrest Aaron Hatfarm & Wm Jenkins
(colrd) and bring them to this office.
The above named freedmen are said
to be living on a place near Pine
the property of Taylor Plantation below
Pine Bluff at which place and
vicinity he will make diligent
enquiry as to the whereabouts of the
said Aaron Hatfarm & Wm Jenkins
(colrd) and make every effort to secure
their arrest

O. Guinnette
Lieut & Asst A.A.G.

B. B. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark July 22

Sol. Franklin Esq.
Quy. Plantation

Sir:

The bearer
Dyson Jenkins (colod) is directed to report
to you for duty and is expected to
hereafter comply with his contract
in full and it is for him to do so
please advise me as
. He is informed to
or that of you
with you in
between himself

Fully

Asst. B. B. F.

To All to Whom These Presents Come

Be it known unto that one David Crockett, colrd, is reported to this office as having violated his contract for labor. All parties are hereby cautioned from hiring the said David Crockett else they will be held responsible by this office for the value of his wages claimed by him during the time he or persists in the violation of his contract, the same to be paid to L. D. Bryant Esq of Jefferson County Ark to whom his labor is due

Given under my hand this 22nd day of Oct 1865 at Pine Bluff Ark

S. Greenleaf
Lieut & Agt. B.R.B.F.&A.

B. R. I. & A. L.
Line

22/6

Brvt Col. Henry
Actg. Q. M. & D. C. S. & A. L.
Little Rock
Colonel

I have the honor
to Enclose
Little Rock for
in payment of
the receipt of , also
for the amount $ Pass by

Very respectfully

Lieut & Asst. Q. M.

P. B. R. R. & Co.
Pine Bluff Ark. July 23/67

Mrs Pine Bluff Ark
Madame

I have the honor
to kindly notify you that complaints have been entered against you by
Mary [illegible] in your [illegible] of
[illegible] clothing which she claims to be
to her, and for [illegible]
right to claim [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
the claim.

Yours Respectfully

B. Co. S. A.
Pine Bluff Ark. July 24th

Wm. M. Colby Esq.
Supt of Education
Little Rock Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to enclose herewith ten reports pertaining to the school taught by Mr Jas O. Wyman. I have been waiting to receive the weekly reports from the Negro School but he informs me that by reason of being out of blanks, there being no blanks [illegible] could not possibly him. Miss Penny left last night for [illegible] is much better and will [illegible] is very desirous to have [illegible] to have her go on first [illegible]

and hope you have also

[illegible]

[illegible] your last good teacher ought to have
[illegible]

and in the mean time make necessary
enquiries. Your report for June is rece[illegible]
But little has [illegible]
school house. The health of the feed people
is not as good as might be [illegible] and
much sickness is anticipated.

Dear sir

P. B. O. & A. Ry.
Pine Bluff July 20th 67

Wm. McLaney
Pine Bluff Ark.

Sir:

I have the honor to request that you come to this office at your earliest convenience and bring with you a girl named Ann Banks (alias) Complaint having been made by Jane Banks (col'd) to claim the services of said girl by reason of having hired her from 1st Jan. &c. Please inform this Co. when you can come in order to have the hearing at the same time so that I can ascertain the true state of the case.

Respectfully
Your ob't Serv't
S. Merrill
Supt. & Engr P B & P R R Co.

P. O. [illegible]
Pine Bluff [illegible]

Lt. Gen. U. S. Grant Com.
Dear Sir:

I have the honor to
acknowledge the receipt of your
of the 25th inst. directed to the Battle field,
I am [illegible] to receive [illegible]
under date of the 24th inst. [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

I am Sir

Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
[illegible]
Lieut. & Ord. U. S. A.

Office Bureau R.E. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Sept 29th 1867

Rec'd Feltes Esq
Sir

I have the honor to respectfully request you to inform this office at your Earliest convenience what you know concerning a certain House and Lot situated in the Suburbs of this city. That was formerly the property of one Wells Washington. I am informed that the Lot is now the property of Jas Conlee and is occupied by you. If so you are hereby directed by the Assistant Commissioner to take charge of the House and collect such rents from time to time as the property may be declared to be proper Dues by his orders or Official Instructions through this Office

Very respectfully,
Your Obt Servt
Lt & Asst Supt

Office Bureau R.F.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark
July 29th 1867

Mr Shelby Curry
Pine Bluff Ark

Sir

I have the honor to notify you that a certain tract of land, containing about Three Hundred and fifty Acres, known as the property of Doctor Smith, is now on the books of this office as abandoned. I am directed by the Assistant Commissioner to notify parties claiming said property to come forward and apply for its restoration at once. I understand you to be the Agent in charge of said property and if so you will please call at this office at your earliest convenience for necessary instructions in the case

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
A. Gerrecht
Lieut 16th U.S.C.T. & A.A.G.

Freedmen Bureau R. S. Ark. Dist.
Price Bluff Ark
July 29th 1867

Elihu McGuirtie
Warren Bradly Co Ark

Sir

You are hereby notified that a certain lot and frame Building on north side of Pullen St Price Bluff Ark. is on the books of this office as abandoned. the same is recarded as having been your property prior to the war & are directed to take possession of the same at once. and collect rents until such time as the property is restored by order of the Assistant Commissioner. You will please answer this notice at once and give me all the information you can concerning the same

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
H. Ellsworth
Lieut & Agent Freedmen Bureau

Office Bureau R.R.C.S. & L.
Pine Bluff Ark
July 31st 1867

Maj. J. W. Smith. Pay Master. U.S.A
Little Rock Ark

Majr

I have the honor to transmit herewith any Pay accounts to the 4th of July 1867. Please remit Amount in currency by mail. The copy of S.O. No 82. dated Head Quarters Dept of Ark Little Rock Ark. March 9th 1866. is supposed to be at yours office if so please endorse payment and return the same to me with the funds

I Am Majr

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
J. Smith
Capt. & Dy. A. A. G. & C.S.

Bureau K. of I & L
Washington July 30th 1865

Wm. J. O'Kelly Esq
Justice of the Peace
Richland County Ohio

Sir

Complaint is made at this office by Anthony Adler freedman stating that one Robert Hill a citizen of Mansfield Township has repeatedly threatened his life and has attempted to put this threat into execution. He also states that he took the matter before you and that you have taken nothing officially in the premises - I have the honor to state that this office will expect that you will do your duty as a Civil Magistrate of this County by protecting the freedmen in their lawful rights. And it is the duty of this Bureau to see that they have such protection.

Respectfully
S. Leiserwitz
Asst Com Agent F.A.L. [illegible]

Received A. D. 1784
Fair Copy [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] to all whom it may concern.
Be it known that I [illegible] have
made at this office by Edward Boyer copy of
[illegible] of Page 1 Vol of this Copy Book that
Matthias Freedman has [illegible] written
[illegible] Contract for labor made by him with the
[illegible] Overseers for the year 1787. All persons
are cautioned against employing said Freedman
as they will be held [illegible] responsible by the
[illegible] Boyer [illegible]
the [illegible] Boyer about recovering the sum
[illegible] stating his contract.

A Geisreiter
Secretary of the B. K. [illegible]

Bureau R. I. & F. C.
June 11th 1867

Bvt Col Herring
Chf Insp Amer. Com. Fds,
Little Rock Ark.

Colonel

I have the honor to
transmit here with the following papers per
taining to cruelty in the case of R. W. & L. Fer-
the month of July 1867 viz:-
report of transactions of agent
Receipt Kelly Invoice Stores
Invoice for Rent (2 Cert)
Draft remit & check for the amount of
the above vouchers. I am most respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Chas Woodbury
Asst Agent B.R.F. & F.C.

Duplicate
Original
Duplicate

Bennett & Bell
Pine Bluff Ark Aug 1st 65

Brig Gen P. O. Bennett.
A. A. A Gen. Bureau R F & A.L.
Little Rock Ark,

General

I have the honor to transmit herewith Monthly Report of accounts for the month of July 65

Very respectfully
Your obt svt

Bureau N. Ark & L.
Fort Smith Ark. Dec 2. 1864

A.A.A.G. Col Henry Page.
Chief Q. M. B.F. Ark & L
Little Rock Ark

Colonel.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of check dated Nov 30th on Merchants National Bank of Little Rock Ark. for two hundred & twelve dollars payable to the order of Capt. Hargentro, also check dated 6th inst. on same bank for Sixty one & 50/100 dollars payable to my order.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
O. Rainwater
Asst Q.M. Agent Sub. Dist

Bureau D. F. & A.
Pine Bluff Ark. Aug 2. 1869

Brt Col't Henry Page
Asst Commissary B.R.F.&A.
Little Rock Ark.

Colonel

I have the honor to transmit herewith receipts signed for transportation, &c, for you, agreeably to the 29th inst.

I am Colonel

Very respectfully
Your obt. svt.

O. Brownlee

Asst Inspector Gen'l

Bureau No. 1 R.L.

Sheriff's Office Aug 8 1864

[illegible]

Be it known that on this [illegible]
[illegible] Commissioners in and for the County aforesaid
[illegible] Petition duly and legally presented
[illegible] praying that a road may be laid out
[illegible] formation, and it appearing that
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

S. Cincinnati
Asst Agent B.R. R.L.

Bureau I. of A. G.
New Berne July 4th 1867

Lieut Col Henry Lee.
A. A. G. Bureau R.F.&A.L.
Little Rock Ark.

Colonel

I have the honor to forward monthly returns of C. & F. & C. in duplicate with one hundred transcripts for the month of July 1867.

I am Colonel

very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Meade
Lieut Colonel U.S.A.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen &c
Fort Bliss Texas
Aug 1st 1867

Bvt Maj Taggart
Asst Adjt Genl (Col.)
[illegible]
[illegible]

Bureau R. E. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark Aug 6th 1867

Bvt Col Henry Page.
Chf Qr Master B. R. E. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark,

Colonel

I have the honor to transmit herewith the following Return for the Month of July 1867 viz.
Monthly Return of Bureau Stores Duplicate
Abstract C 3 Vouchers
Voucher to Abstract A
Voucher to Abstract B.
Voucher to Abstract G,
Voucher to Abstract I
Voucher to Abstract L.
Clothing Receipt Roll.

The approval of the Asst Commissary to the necessary vouchers is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Crawford
Brevet Major U.S.A.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark Aug 6th 1867.

John E. Owen Esqr
Pine Bluff Ark,

Sir,

I have the honor to respectfully inform you that there is a certain piece of property consisting of a building one story and a half high registered on the books of this office in your name as abandoned.

The property will be taken in charge and rents collected by this office until the same is fully restored to the proper owner thereof. on written application being made by you or your Agent for the restoration of the same. Please attend to the matter at your earliest convenience.

I am Sir.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Reinecker
Asst. Adjt Gen'l B.R.F. & A.L.

Bureau R. F. & L.
Fort Bluff Ark. May 7th 1867

Bvt Col. Henry Hoyt
Chief Qr. Master B.R.F.&L.
Little Rock Ark.

Colonel.

I have the honor to transmit herewith the following vouchers for purchases. &c.

Smith & Dennis	$11.25
George Darby	54 Cts
L. D. Pease	21.37

Please remit checks for the above vouchers at your earliest convenience. Also please find enclosed Receipts signed for the Articles specified in the above vouchers.

I am Colonel
Very respectfully
Your obt Servt

Asst Agent B.R.F.&L.

Bureau R.F.&A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark. Sept 30th 1865

Bvt Brig Genl Jno E. Bennett
A. A. A. G. B. R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark.

General

I have the honor to submit the following as my narrative report for the month ending Sept 30th 1865.

The principal portion of the month was occupied in visiting plantations in the western and northwestern portion of my district where I found the crops in promising condition. the freedmen generally attentive to business. especially where where the employer manages their own affairs. use tact and firmness rather than violence. and place no stress on the brandishing of pistols or the flourish of the Bowie knife -

In some instances there is much dissatisfaction, quarreling and even fighting among the freedmen. Men who beat their wives most unmercifully at times. and several have been fined for assault and battery before Civil Magistrates -

Much sickness prevails among freedmen especially on the larger plantations. The same

is mainly of a bilious or malarious nature. Some are not infected to this. Though as yet but few deaths have occured. places that were subject to the overflow are reported to be most affected -

The sanitary condition of this city and vicinity is very good. frequent inspections are being made of the premises occupied by freedmen. and none of the causes are found to be over crowded -

The Freedmens Hospital in charge of Dr Jos. M. Lewis is indeed a blessing to many who are so unfortunate as to be thrown upon public charity for support - The doctor is untiring in the discharge of his duties and is very successful in the treatment of his patients. in some instances cases are brought in where there is no hope of a cure. I feel satisfied that even in these cases all is being done that can be under the circumstances to relieve the sufferers and if possible to save the life of the unfortunate being -

The Schools on the plantations and one of the two schools taught in the city are now closed. the teachers have gone north during vacation -

Rev. E. K. Miller Supt Dept of Schools &c, Occupies the Eastern portion of my

County during the month but am not
informed as to the result of his travels.

Mr Jenks Wilson is pushing forward
the work on the new School House. some
curiosity is being manifested and inquiries made
on the part of citizens as to the object and
design of the work. some think it terrible that
the peoples money should be wasted for so
useless purpose. alleging that the niggers
never can be taught anything. but am happy
to assure you however that those individuals
belong to the minority. and that the better
class of citizens now advocate the education
of the blacks.

Only about one third of the contracts
made in this County are filed in this office.
some flatter themselves that the Bureau has
nothing to do with them because their con-
tracts are not filed. It is believed that at
some future day those persons will find out
their mistake. the negroes in their employ are
being informed to hold on to their share of the
cotton and to notify the office should any one
undertake to move the same before a sat-
isfactory settlement is made.

I have received six certificates to employees
of delinquent freedmen under Circular No 19. Ser-
ies of 1866. some applications have been rejected.

the circumstances proving the employes to be in the fault. and in such cases the wages of the freedmen if any were due are approximated and directions given for the prompt payment of the sums. Statements made by freedmen are frequently found to be exaggerated. Some when desire to come to this office are either slow in complying or pay no attention to the notice. in two instances I had to send a mounted soldier and compel the attendance of parties -

I have reason to believe that many outrages would be committed. and those that are being committed remain unpunished by the Civil Authorities but for the presence of this Agency and that of the troops - There is no more insults or open defiance on the part of these rebellious characters. but there seems to be a wholesome dread of the powers that be -

The civil magistrates throughout the county are by no means prompt in the administration of impartial justice. freedmen seeking redress at their hands are referred to this office. and only when they are desirous to again apply. and are furnished with a note written in plain and unmistakable language addressed to the magistrate having jurisdiction. will the latter dignitary take cognizance of the case -

Instructions contained in Circular 13. C.S. are being complied with as much as possible and I am informed that in this county there has been but little opposition to the work of registration.

I am General,

Very respectfully
Your ob. Serv.
A. Geisweit,
Asst. Supt. Gen. B.R. 5th Dist.

P. O. & A.

Pine Bluff Ark Aug 9/07

Smith & Jeynes

Gentlemen

I have the honor to inform you that I am in receipt of a communication from Lieut Jarbus A. Bolton Agent of the Bureau at Columbus Miss. in which he states that Jemima Maloney (colored) has requested him to notify this office that her son Henry Maloney (now deceased) had formerly worked for one Jim Smith who ran a saw mill & that there was a months wages due him from Jim Smith. I would respectfully ask as to whether the said Henry Maloney was ever in your employ during last year & if so you will please furnish this office with a statement of his account & wish to transmit the same to his mother through the Bureau at Columbus Please endorse this & return at your earliest convenience.

Yours Gentlemen

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark Aug 9th 1865

Lieut Frank D Crosby
Agent B. R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark.

Lieutenant

I have the honor to enclose herewith certificate of discharge and Registration of Ben Nichols Col'd, These papers were found in the highway and deposited in this office for the owner, and as said Nichols resides in Pulaski County I transmit them to you hoping they will reach the owner.

I am Lieutenant

Very respectfully
Your obt Svt
A. Lemaster
Lieut Agent B.R.F. & A.L.

B. R. I. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark Aug. 10th 69

Henry Page Esq.
Disbursing Officer B. R. I. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Check No. 045 on Merchants National Bank of Little Rock favor of Jas O. Lyman for rent of schoolhouse for July /69

I am sir

Very respectfully
Your obdt. Servt.
S. Geisreiter
Lieut & Asst. A. Qr. Mr.

Bureau R. F & L.,
Pine Bluff Ark. Aug 10th 1865.

Bvt Brig Genl Jno E Bennett,
A. A. A. G. B. R. F & L.,
Little Rock Ark,

General.

I have the honor to state in answer to your communication of the 7th inst. that the services of one of the clerks now on duty in my office can be dispensed with, and that I have this day discharged Wm Henry C. DeWolf.

I regret that Wm DeWolf is thus unfortunate. he has been faithful and prompt in the discharge of whatever duty I requested him to perform, but his qualifications as a clerk being inferior to those of Wm. LaRose I have considered to retain the latter -

Wm. DeWolf is a cripple. has lost one leg during the war and is otherwise injured from wounds rebels in discharge of his duty

as a soldier in the Union Army and claim
the favorable consideration of the Government.

I am General

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Leisiter
Lieut 2d Ohio Cav

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Dno Bluff Ark Aug 12th 1865

Bvt Brig Genl Jno E. Bennett.
A. A. A. G. B. R. F & A. L.
Little Rock. Ark,

General.

I have the honor to report that the telegram of Maj. J. T. Watson dated Little Rock Ark Aug 11th 65 was not received by me until after the boat had left.

I was at my residence on the evening of the 10th inst and the operator not finding me at the office, delivered the message to Lieut Rea Inc. L. Barton 2d U.S. Colored Troops who passed the night to be made, and assures me that no trace of the men could be found.

I telegraphed to you about 7 A.M. on the 11th inst that the boat had been searched, and the Negroes were not on board. I regret that I did not get the telegram at first so as to meet the boat in person, but am of the opinion that the instructions contained in the telegram have been fully carried out by Lieut Barton who is even ready to give me a

the assistance in his power.

I am Sir

Very respectfully

Your obt Servt

S. Meiswinkle

Insp Agent B.R.F.M.A.L.

Bureau R. F. & L.,
Pine Bluff Ark. Aug 12th 1865

Bvt Brig Gen. Jno. E. Bennett.
A. A. A. G. B. R. F. & L.
Little Rock Ark.
General.

I have the honor to report that in the early part of July. Jordan Embree Esq residing near Robt Ray Landing notified this office that one Addison Embree Colored. an able bodied young man was leading the life of a vagrant. that the freedmen in the neighborhood. were being much annoyed by him. that he made it a practice of living in the woods. and would come to the negro quarters when the men were absent in the field at work. and by threats and other offensive demonstrations compel the women to give him food and such other articles as he wanted.

Mr Embree was informed to bring the case to the notice of the nearest Civil magistrate and to have the said Addison Embree arrested and tried under the vagrant law - Mr J. M. Vaughan

a Justice of the Peace were duly notified by Mr Embree who failed to take cognizance of the case. his excuse was that he had no constable to arrest the negro. meanwhile the conduct of Adelbert Embree (Col'd) was becoming intolerant and the freedmen joined Mr Embree in a petition that he be arrested by the Military Authority - I went in person to Lieut. Ray Landing. investigated the case and arrested the said Adelbert Embree. sent him under guard to Mr Bi[illegible] where I turned him over to the Commanding Officer with the request that the negro be set to work under guard - I proposed keeping him in arrest until such time as he should promise to go to work and make an honest livelihood -

The conduct of Adelbert Embree (Col'd) since his arrest has been very peculiar. he says but little. has a sullen look and at times a foolish smile would be visible. He does good work when closely watched. but gives one no assurance that he will work if set at liberty. but on the contrary I think he would return to his den in the woods and live as before -

Parties have called on me recently and assured

one that the negro is partly insane - Lieut Ira Mc L. Barton Comdg Post thinks that he is a fit subject for the Insane Asylum -

Thus far I have done the best I could for the negro and was in hopes that he would change his course and enable me to release him but in consideration of his partial insanity I am at a loss how to dispose of him in the future. and respectfully ask for necessary instructions in the case -

I am General,

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Geisreiter
Lieut & Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau of R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark Aug. 10th 1867

Henry C. De Wolf Esq.
Pine Bluff Ark.

Sir:

In pursuance to instructions received from the Assistant Commissioner you are hereby discharged as clerk in the Bureau of R. F. & A. L. by reason of your services being no longer required.

In consideration of the prompt and faithful manner in which you have hitherto discharged the duties of your office I take pleasure in saying that you merited my esteem & confidence & take pleasure in recommending you to whomsoever may require your services in future.

I am sir.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Geiselter
Lieut & Agent B.R.F. & A.L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.,
Pine Bluff Ark Aug 12th 1865

Mrs Skinner,

Madam.

I have the honor to respectfully inform you that a certain frame building in this city now occupied by Wm Craighead as a store room, is on the books of this office as abandoned and registered in the name of J. W. Walker. the same will be considered as abandoned and rents collected from the occupant until the property is properly restored to the rightful owner by Special Order from the Assistant-Commissioner. which will be issued upon receipt of application setting forth clearly all the facts in the case accompanied by necessary vouchers to verify the same.

I am Madam

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
J Gaveller
Supt Agents B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark Aug 12th 1867.

Messrs Bell & Carlton.
Pine Bluff Ark.

Gentlemen.

I have the honor to notify you that the account of Mrs Lydia E Reed for rent of Lots on which the hospital now stands is disapproved by the Assistant Commissioner. The amount of rent charged is considered exorbitantly large. I have made inquiries as to what would be a proper amount and have come to the conclusion that fifty dollars per year would be a fair compensation for the use of the two lots -

I have called at your office to day to confer with you on the subject but there was no one in. I would be pleased to have an answer at your earliest convenience -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S Seymour
Lieut & Asst. C. R.F.A.L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark Aug 12th 1867

But Brig Genl Jno. E. Bennett.
A. A. A. G. B. R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark

General.

In compliance with your directions of the 7th inst. I have the honor to transmit herewith the oath of La Pease and H. C. De Wolf clerks in this Office.

I am General.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Carpenter
Supt & Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

L.R. P. & L.
Pine Bluff Ark. Aug. 14/67

Dr. Wm. Geyer
City Physician

Dear Sir.

I have the honor to most respectfully inform you that I can not admit that man Wm. Dickenson into my hospital he being a resident [illegible] transfer, and ought to be treated at the expense of the county or the city. It is not the intention of Government to entirely relieve the civil authorities from the duty of caring for its poor but only to assist the most helpless of non-residents pauppers for the time being I am doctor.

Very respectfully
Your obdt. Servt.
S. Geisreiter
Asst. Agent R.R.F.&L.

R. R. R. & Al.

Pine Bluff Ark Aug 19 [illegible]

Rev Phi Rutherford
Chaps of Division Jr. E. Church
Pine Bluff Ark

Sir.

I desire to know whether any thing further has been done in regard to collecting money to buy a lot for the purpose of locating the Building thereon. You promised to call at my office but failed, please indorse on this how the case now stands so far as you know, how much money there is collected in all, and who has it in charge. I shall make my report in a few days & it will be too late to do any thing further about it.

I am sir

Very respectfully
L. Geisreiter
Lieut & Agt. R. R. R. & Al

Bureau R. F. & L.
Pine Bluff Ark. Aug 14th 1865

Henry Page Esq
Disbursing Officer.

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Check No 654 on Merchants National Bank Little Rock for $189.17/100 payable to my order.

I am Sir

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
L. Geismeier
Supt & Agent B.R.F.&L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark. Aug 14th 1865

Henry Page Esqr
A. A. A. G. B. R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to inform you that I have this day visited the grounds on which the School house is to be located and find that Mr Jenks Wilson has caused the old breastworks on the lot to be leveled. The piers for the foundation are built and Mr Wilson is now having dirt washed so as to prevent the water from settling under the building - The material for the frame is on the ground and nearly ready to put up - The window and door frames are also on the ground. and the fancy work is being done at the shop. The building material is of good quality and the work is being pushed rapidly forward -

Some misunderstanding seems to exist regarding the fence - Is it intended that there should be a tight board fence all around the two lots?

The building will be about 16 feet from the line. Mr Wilson intends putting a fence in front and wishes to know what kind of a fence is desired. An early reply is respectfully solicited.

I am Sir.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. F. Geisreiter
Lieut & Agent B. A. F. & L. S.

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark. Aug 16th 1865

Maj Hagan Bog
D. C. 13. R. F & A. L.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to respectfully request that you send me the following Quartermasters Blanks. Viz.

12 Receipts for Quartermasters Stores.
24 Vouchers to Abstract A. Purchases No 12
12 Vouchers to Abstract C. Stationary No 38
24 Vouchers to Abstract B. Transportation No 17
6 Vouchers to Abstract B. Postage No 20

I am Sir.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Geisreiter
Issuing Agent B.R.F & A.L.

Bureau R. F. & L.
Pine Bluff Ark Aug 18th 1867

Mr L. J Robinson
Mc Willie Plantation
Jefferson Co. Ark,

Sir I have the honor to state that Benjamin Mc Willie (col'd) comes and complains that you have ordered him to leave your place because he has for a few days past sought to obtain redress at the hands of the authorities against one Murphy Davis your manager who he alleges has struck him over the head with a hickory club.

I would respectfully invite your attention to the fact that this is no time to drive men off who have worked for seven months and whose crop is now about made. and no matter what may be the provocation offered by them, violence cannot be resorted to except in self defence. Now will allow Benjamin Mc Willie to remain on your premises until the crop is made and gathered. and I shall hold you

strictly responsible for the act of your Agent so far as the management of the place is concerned - The negro having offered much provocation to Mr Davis. the lightness of the stroke. there being no marks left; and your reputation for fair dealing with. and kindness towards the freedmen in the past will lead me to take no further action in the premises trusting that there will be no further occasion for interference on my part -

I am Sir -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
A. Caseretta
Local Agent B.R.F.&A.L.

Brevet Maj. Gen U.S.A.
Com. Bluff Ark. Aug 16th 1865

But Brig Gen Fred Steele
Com. &c. &c. U.S.A. Little Rock Ark.

General

I have the honor to report that on the 15th inst there was a Barbecue given by the freedmen on the Bruffs Plantation some eight miles below this Bluff - John A. Williams Esq. U. S. Cotton Commissioner for the Southern District of Ark. and at this time a member of the Board of Registers for Jefferson Co was one of the speakers - He informed the freedmen that it was not obligatory upon them to work the roads under the State laws of the State. that in as much as they were still enfranchised by the laws of the land of the right to vote, to serve on juries &c as the white man. and under they would no longer have as few was any law compelling them

to work the roads.

I would respectfully invite your attention to an act of the Legislature approved March 31st 1887. entitled an act to amend Chapter 149 of Gaulds Digest. Sec 1 of said act requires 8 days labor on public roads to be performed by all male inhabitants above 18 years old. Sec 2. says that County Courts may levy a road tax. and in Sec 3 all conflicting laws are repealed. rendering Sec 21. Chapt 149 of Gaulds Digest null and void. Those of the freedmen who board him. and more especially the leading ones now declare that they will not work the roads. and unless the roads are worked before the picking season commences the prospect is that they will not be worked at all. the labor being so very scarce it will take all the available forces to save the crop -

I have decided that the freedmen are obliged to work the roads as required by law or suffer the penalty. but since the information given by Mr Williams is so generally subscribed. I would ask that if sustained in my opinion by the Act Commissioners

I be allowed to publish a statement to contradict these erroneous impressions and thereby save much trouble and expense to the Freedmen-

I am General,

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Geisreiter
Special Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. F. & L.,
Pine Bluff Ark Aug 16th 1865

Bvt Brig Genl. Jno. Eaton.
A. A. A. G. B. R. F. & L.
Little Rock Ark.

General.

I have the honor to request that I be authorized to purchase ten barrels of lime for the purpose of disinfecting the houses of indigent freedmen in and about Pine Bluff.

Within the last two weeks 3 small sickness to be rapidly increasing and there is much danger of it becoming epidemical. I have ordered a number to move to the country but there are many others who are not now able to work. They whilst well have been employed about the city by jobs and have spent their earning as they went along. They are now destitute and helpless. The City and County authorities manifest but little interest in their welfare. And unless they are assisted by the Bureau for the time being, there will

be much suffering and mortality among them.
I am Dear.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
L Geisreiter
Lieut & Agent B R Pt 12

2

Bureau R. F. & L.
Pine Bluff Ark Aug 14th 1865

J W Chadick Esq.
Buford Plantation.
Jefferson Co. Ark.

Sir

Complaint having been made by Henry Robinson, John Johnson, Susan Johnson, and Marshal Davis / Colored / that you have failed to settle with them for work done last year. and that they repeatedly tried to obtain a settlement and the pay due them. but have received no satisfaction from you -

It is hereby ordered that you come to this office at 2. P. M. on Wednesday the 21st day of Aug 1865 and bring with you the necessary books and papers and have them in good shape. that the same may be inspected and a settlement secured - fail not at your peril.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
L. Eisenlohr
Asst Supt Bureau R. F. & L.

R. R. Co.
Pine Bluff Ark. Aug. 17/69

Wm Curtis Esq.
Curtis-House

Sir:

I am informed that you have in your employ one Emma Travers (colrd) You will please cause her to come to this office without delay

I am sir

Very respectfully
Your obdt. servt.
A Ceriaccio
Lieut & Agt. R.R. Co.

Quarters of R. F. & A.

Fort Bluff Ark Aug. 19th 1864

L. Y. Carroll Esq.
County Judge of Jefferson Co. Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to respectfully invite your attention to the case of Samuel Pettis (colrd) he is a resident citizen of this county is now sick and seemingly helpless, he is to all intents and purposes a pauper, and does properly come under your jurisdiction. I can not take him into my hospital under existing regulations It is respectfully requested that necessary arrangements will at once be made by the County Court of Jefferson Co. to provide for this and similar cases in future Your action relative to Sam Pettis (colrd) will be by you endorsed on this communication & the same returned to this office at your earliest convenience

I am sir

Very respectfully
Your obdt servt
D. Cairnieter Lt & Agt. P.B. Ark

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark Aug 21st 1867

J. M. Vaughan.
Justice of the Peace.
Jefferson Co. Ark.

Sir.

George Anderson
freedman employed on the plantation of
Gen Kennedy states that Mr Fowlks
foreman on said plantation threw a pistol
on him at two different times threatening
to take his life. Said Anderson states that
he laid the case before you and you refused
to take action in the matter. Please inform me
if such is the case, for colored men must have
protection through the civil Courts.

O. Brown
Asst Supt B.R.F & A.L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark August 1865

Dr J. M. Lewis
A. A. Surg B. R. F. & A. L.

Doctor.

I have the honor to respectfully inform you that I am directed by the Asst. Commissioner to transfer Sebastian Embrick col'd from the Guard House to the Freedmen's Hospital by reason of his partial insanity - Should it be necessary to put him in separate and distinct apartments please notify this office, and the same will be erected without delay - Please send one of the attendants for him as soon as convenient.

I am doctor.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Brewster
Lieut V Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. F. & A.
Pine Bluff Ark Aug 24 1865

Lieut Dra M. L. Barton
Comdg Post of Pine Bluff.
Lieutenant.

I have the honor to state that I am directed by the Asst Commissioner to transfer the prisoner Atchison (Embezzler) from the Guard House to the Freedmen's Hospital - Dr Lewis will send for him at his earliest convenience -

I am Lieutenant
Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
J. Guisuita.
Lieut & Agent B. R. F. & A.

Bureau R. M. F. & L.
Prin. Bluff, Ark. Sep. 26 1865

Henry Dogs Esq
A. A. A. G. for Ark.

Sir

I have the honor to most respectfully invite your attention to the vouchers for purchases forwarded by me on the 1st inst. My requisitions for the articles were forwarded with the vouchers. The invoices have been received at this office, but no check for the amount called for on the several vouchers has as yet come to hand.

The vouchers are as follows Viz:

Smith & Dennis	$16 25	for Lumber
Geo. Darby	$52 00	for Coffins
L. Bolton	$21 99	for Lumber

The parties are very much in need of the money which please remit as soon as possible.

Very respectfully

Asst. Agent A. M. F. & L.

Bureau R. F. & L.
Prairie Bluff Ark Aug 24 65

Henry Page Esqr
A. A. G. & D. C. for Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to transmit herewith Receipts signed for Lists received this day.

I am Sir

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt

Lieut-V Agent B. R. F. & L.

B. R. O. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark Aug 27/63

Maj: Alexander
Walker Plantation

Sir:

This office having been informed that Edmund Clark (colrd) the foreman is assuming authority that does not belong to him by undertaking to discharge hands from your plantation without first obtaining permission from this office. You will see that Jas Riley (colrd) is hereafter allowed to remain on the place and to save the crop raised by him and in no instance is it allowed for hands to be discharged without permission from this office and then only in extraordinary cases

I am sir,

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Ewing Lt & Agt

To the Freedmen on the Scull and Bertrand Plantation

This office having been notified that certain freedmen in the employ of Scull and Stoddard on the Scull and Bertrand Plantation are the owners of a large number of logs. And that said logs are constantly in the field destroying and cutting the logs belonging to the owners of said logs. but also the property of others. Which causing much disturbance and this portion causing parties as well as numerous suits of property. For which reason I am ordered by the said parties notified to cease their said cutting and removal of said logs. Compliance with this notice is expected

A. Fiquet

Chief Freedmen Bureau W. D. La.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark Aug 24, 1867

Major General O. O. Howard.
Commissioner B. R. F. & A. L.
Washington D.C.

General.

I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of communication from Bvt Maj Joseph Taylor A.A.A.G. B.R. F. & A.L. written by direction of Col C. H. Smith Asst Commissioner for this granting the application of my predecessor Bvt Brig Genl Dawes for an appropriation of $100 for a school house on the Camp Taylor Place.

This is the only authority I have authorizing me to make the expenditure. and would respectfully state that the School house was not built by the Bureau. but by the freedmen on the place. and the appropriation was only to aid them in the completion of the same. Had the School house been built entirely by the Bureau more than four hundred dollars would have been required. I am desirous to take up

the building on my return of Bureau Property which I cannot do. the building being owned by the freedmen who built the house and done all the work.

I enclose herewith a corrected copy of Abstract L. for June. and return Vouchers to Abstract D for June 1867 with the certificate properly filled as required -

I am General.

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
L. Geisreiter
Lieut 1 Agent B.R. Fr'd & L.

Bureau of Refugees Freedmen & Abandoned Lands
In Jefferson County Ark. Bluff Creek Agency

To the Freedmen of Jefferson County Ark.

The agent of the Bureau in charge of the county being credibly informed that at a barbacue recently held on the Snipes Plantation the colored men were told by one of the speakers that it was not obligatory upon them to work the roads, this being no law to a man's time to do so, and in case they were warned out by any one not to go; he further says to the freedmen, and all others to whom it may concern, that there is a law making it the duty of every male inhabitant of the state, from sixteen to fifty years of age, to work the roads eight days in each year in the township where he resides, and should any one fail to work the required time when notified he will be subject to a fine of two dollars per day and costs, to be paid to the Justice of the Peace having jurisdiction.

The agent takes this opportunity to say that no responsible motive is being attributed to the speaker in the misfortune it was to create this erroneous

any suspicion and to caution the freedmen to
in any case how to call upon the authorities of
individuals especially when the same has a
tendency to array them against the civil or
military authorities

S. Weisiger
Lieutenant & Agent B.R.F. & A.L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.,
Wm. Bluff Ark. Sept 28th 1865.

Mr Eph Clark. (Col'd)
Walker Plantation
Jefferson Co Ark.

Sir

You are hereby ordered to appear at this office without delay to answer to the complaint of Wm. Riley (Col'd). and bring with you such witnesses as may be deemed necessary - You are also directed to abstain from any violence upon the person of Wm Riley or in any manner whatever: and you will be held strictly accountable by this office for your conduct.

Fail not to obey this order at your peril.

Asst Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.,
Post Bluff Ark Aug 24. 1865

Genl Fisk
Little Rock Ark.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith Voucher No 1 Abstract D for June with necessary corrections made in accordance of the same. Also Abstract D for June. the remarks on which are more explicit than they are on the copy now at Washington and more in accordance with the facts in the case - I would most respectfully request that the same be approved by the Act Commissioner and forwarded to Washington in place of the one sent on from there - The original of Maj Sykes letter to Maj Dawes authorizing the expenditures has been forwarded to your office with the returns for June -

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Maj & Asst Q.M.

Bureau of R. F. & L.

Pine Bluff Ark Aug 28th 1867

Bvt Brig. Genl. John C. Bennett

A. A. G. B. R. F. & L.

Little Rock Ark.

General:

I have the honor to respectfully request permission to visit Little Rock on business pertaining to the Bureau & also on important private business. If permission is granted please answer by telegraphic, as it is necessary that I should be at Little Rock by ten A. M. on Saturday the 31st of August

Very General

Very respectfully
Your obdt Servt
S. Cuisinier
Lieut & Agt R. B. F. & L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.,
Pine Bluff Ark. Aug 28th 1865

D. M. Carroll Esq.
County Probate Judge.
For Jefferson Co. Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to request that you inform this office at your earliest convenience as to what steps have been taken by the County Court which is in session on this date to provide for the colored paupers of the county. and especially those afflicted with contagious and other diseases which are rendering them perfectly helpless -

The government hospital for freedmen is intended only for non resident paupers and infirm persons who have no home any where.

Several freedmen who are really County paupers are being provided for at the government hospital, and would have perished had they not been admitted. there being no other place for them to go - It appears that the number

of applicants are constantly increasing. and it is hoped that ample provisions have been made by the Govt to provide for its own paupers & thereby prevent unnecessary suffering and save human life by proper care and timely medical treatment –

I am Sir

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
J Reinecke
Local Agent B. R. Fy & S.

Bureau R. F. & L.
Fort Bluff Ark. May 3rd 1866

Dr. S. Ferris

Sir

Mary Matilda Lewis forewoman states that you are indebted to her for services rendered during the present year. I see by referring to your contract with her that there is no time specified that you are to retain her in your employ, and as a matter of course is entitled to full payment for her services at the time the contract ceases to be in force.

I would respectfully request that you pay her the full amount due for her labor and thereby avoid further trouble.

Very respectfully
Your Obt. Servt
S. Ferris
Lieut Adjt. R.F.&L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark. Aug 31st 1865

Henry Hoge Esq
A. A. G. O. Ark. & L.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith the following papers pertaining to duty in the Bureau R. F. & A. L. for the month of August 1865. Viz.

Report of Persons & Articles Employed — Duplicate
Receipt Roll of Hired Men — Duplicate

Please remit the amount of Vouchers at your earliest convenience.

I am Sir.

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
L. Smith
Asst Agent B.R.F.A.L.

Bureau R. M. A. S.
Fort Bluff Ark. Aug 31st 1864

Henry Dougherty Esq
A. Com. & D. C. Brooks.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to transmit herewith the following Returns for the month of August 1864 Viz.

Monthly Return of Bureau Stores — Duplicate
Abstract E — 2 Vouchers
Voucher to Abstract E.
Voucher to Abstract F.
Voucher to Abstract G.
Abstract K — 2 Vouchers
Voucher to Abstract L.

I am Sir
Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
L. Weisiger
Disbursing Agent B. R. M. A. S.

Bureau R. F. & L.
Fort Bluff Ark Sept 2nd 1867

Henry Pope Esq
A. A. G. C. B. R. F. & L.
Little Rock Ark,

Sir.

I have the honor to transmit herewith Monthly Returns of C. C. & L. C. in triplicate with one voucher for the month of August 1867.

I am Sir.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Weisiger
Sub Agent B. R. F. & L.

Bureau R. F. & L.
Pine Bluff Ark Sept 3rd 1864

Henry Page Esq
A. A. & D. C. B. R. F. & L.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith Requisitions for forage. Also receipts signed for the same. Please remit check and Invoices.

I am Sir

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
L. Leisseiter
Local Agent B. R. F. & L.

Bureau R. I. & L.
Pine Bluff Ark. Sept 2nd 1867

Henry Page Esq.
A. A. G. D. B. R. F. & L.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to transmit herewith Monthly Returns of Quartermasters Stores in triplicate for the month of August 1867.

I am respectfully
Your obt. Servt
S. Steinmetz
Lieut. Agent B. R. F. & L.

Bureau R. F & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark. Sept 30th 1867

Bvt Brig Gen Jno E Bennett
A. A. G. Bureau R. F & A.L.
Little Rock. Ark.

General.

I have the honor to transmit herewith Monthly Report of Freedmen for the month of August 1867.

Very General.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
L. Quinette
Local Agent B.R.F.&A.L.

Pine Bluff Ark
Sept 2. 1863

C. A. Clark Esq
Cashier M. & F. Bank.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to inform you that Check No 693 for $9164 issued by Henry Page Esq July 17, 1863 payable to my order has been lost. please stop payment of the same.

I am Sir.

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
A. Geisweiler
Lieut Ord & B.M. Ord

Bureau R. R. & L.
Pine Bluff Ark. Sept. 7th 69

Maj. Page. Esq.
A. A. G. Dist. Ark.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith two sets of vouchers: one for mileage and the other for actual expenses, but both for the same journey.

In accordance with your suggestion I have made out vouchers for actual expenses while traveling under S. O. No 11. C. S. Asst Commissioners office - If at all possible I would like to receive mileage. The distance is likely marked on one of the vouchers are very near correct and are estimated below the usual number of miles estimated by the boats. and by it you will see that I shall lose $18.90 if the same are not paid. and to which I am actually entitled. yet rather

than delay the matter longer. You will please do the best you can for me in paying either one or the other of the vouchers -

In explanation to some of the charges on the 17. I will state that during the time the journey was made the Mississippi valley was overflowed and boats charged higher for carrying passengers to places for which they had no other passengers or freight. and in several instances they could not land at all and had to carry me ashore in a yawl. I never paid less than ten dollars when the boat landed on purpose to take me ashore no matter how near the distance.

Very respectfully, Your ob Servt

O. Geisseler

Asst Agent B.A. F.W.R.

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark Sept 4th 1865

Bvt Major L. Capt. Forsyth
Chief Q. M. Sub Dist of Ark.
Little Rock Arkansas.

Major

I have the honor to transmit herewith my application for quarters for the month of Aug. 1865 and would most respectfully state that I should have forwarded the same at an earlier date but was informed by Lieutenants Barton and Watson both A. A. Quartermasters that under existing orders I could not get either quarters or commutation for the same. During my visit to Little Rock last week I was informed to the contrary, but not being able while there to furnish copies of the order I had to delay making the application till I returned.

I called at your office to explain the case to you personally, but you was absent at the time.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
L. Clearwater

Bureau R. F & A. S.,
Pine Bluff Ark. Sept 4th 1865

Bvt Maj L. Cass Forsyth
Chief Q. M. Sub. Dist of Ark
Little Rock. Ark.

Major

I have the honor to state that I am on duty in the Bureau R.F.&A.S. at this place and that I have not been furnished with public quarters. & would respectfully request that my allowance of quarters be assigned me - Enclosed please find duplicate copies of order assigning me to duty.

I am Major
Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Geisweiler
Sub Asst Agent B.R.F.&A.L.

Bureau R.F.d A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Sept. 1st. 1865

J.W. Foggard.
Asst. Adjt Genl. U.S.A.
Washington D.C.

General,

I have the honor to report that I am on duty in the Bureau of Refugees Freedmen and Abandoned Lands pursuant to S.O. No 2. dated Head Quarters Department of the Arkansas. Little Rock Ark March 9th 1865. and am now on duty at Pine Bluff Ark. per S.O. No 15. Current Series Assistant Commissioners Office.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
O.O. Whittemore
2nd Lieut & Agent B.R.F.&A.L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.,
Pine Bluff Ark.
Sept 1st, 1867

Major Genl O. O. Howard.
Commissioner B. R. F. & A. L.
Washington D. C.

General.

I have the honor to report that I am on duty in the Bureau Refugees Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, pursuant to S. O. No 52. dated Head Quarters Department of the Arkansas, Little Rock Ark March 9th, 1866. and am now on duty at Pine Bluff Ark per S. O. No 15 Current Series. Assistant Commissioners Office Genl.

Very Respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Gilmetter
2nd Lieut 8th Regt Mo Vol

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark. Sept 9th 1865

Bvt Brig Genl Jno C Bennett.
A. A. A. G. B. R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock. Ark,

General.

I have the honor to transmit herewith the statement of the witnesses in the case of the U. S. vs Samuel Mack.

In pursuance to instructions received from you on the 31st ult I proceeded to Arkansas County as soon as my health permitted. I was unwell on the 2nd and 3d. on the 4th being somewhat better and knowing that you was anxious to hear from me as soon as possible I ventured to go. though I was by no means well, twelve miles from Pine Bluff I gave out and stopped two hours at the house of Wm Franklin to rest. at Richland eight miles further I was obliged to lie down. about half an hour after dark I reached the house of Alfred Kimbrough being sick and still four miles from my destination

I asked Mr Kimbrough for accommodations for the night. he remarked that he could not keep me. that he had no accommodations in the house and nothing whatever to feed the horses I told him that I was sick and could not well go further. when he plainly told me that I could not stay but that the next place was a good place to stop at. I afterwards ascertained that Mack was found harbored at Alfred Kimbroughs house and was arrested on that place. At the next house I was again informed that I could not stay. that they had no accommodations &c. being unable to go farther I informed the gentleman that I would stay. I visited my orderly to feed for the horses of which there was plenty in the adjoining field. and ordered them to get supper or I would have my orderly do it. finding that I was not to be trifled with they got supper for me but the accommodations were miserable at best -

I arrived on the Barkley Kimbroughs plantation about 10. o. clock the next day. found many of the field hands out fishing and hunting among whom were some of the witnesses who

had to be sent for causing delay. Mr Berkley Kimbrough treated me very kindly and assisted me all he could in getting the parties together. I left Mr Kimbrough at 2. o'clock P.M. and arrived on the Gerry Plantation about dark where I found Mr Ide and obtained his statement. staid all night with Mr Gerry who upon finding that I was sick endeavored to make me as comfortable as possible. - On the following morning I felt much better, and our horses having been well fed. I purposed reaching Pine Bluff before dark. but before I arrived at Garrison's Landing I got so feeble that I was scarcely able to sit in the saddle and could not have rode further that day. fortunately the Steamer was just landing. I took passage on her and sent my horse down by the orderly - I immediately darted for a state room, and informed the Clerk (Mr Emerick) that I was unwell and wanted to lie down and that I would not pay him until I got to Pine Bluff - I now the surgeon of the

and the manner in which he spoke, assured me that there was a ruffian before me, he assigned me to room No 5 which I found entirely out of order. no sheets or pillow on the beds. and the Mattresses very dirty &c. I spread my coat on the bed and made the best of circumstances-

The witnesses can all be obtained when sent for, they are all living on the river road. and but four miles apart. Mr Pate lives the farthest down the river.

My health is still very poor and I have to detain this letter while lying on the bed. the doctor has directed me to keep still for a few days -

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
L Geiselita
Lieut Dedgent B, P, 7th Ky

Bureau R. F. & L.,
Dist. Bluff Ark Sept 2. 1867

Bvt Brig Gen Jno. E. Bennett.
A. A. A. G. B. R. F & L.
Little Rock Ark.

General,

I have the honor to submit the following as my narrative report for the month of August 1867.

During the first week in the month I visited the plantations of W. H. Britton - Solomon Franklin - Jenks Brown - Scull & Stodstone. Major Ralston and Wm H Jenkins. all of whom have large plantations and are working from 30 to 150 hands each. I have endeavored to comply as much as possible with instructions contained in Circular etc 13. C. B. Asst Comrs office dated Little Rock Ark. July 2' 1867. containing General Orders etc 16. Head quarters 4th Military District - dated Vicksburg Miss June 29th 1867.

The freedmen everywhere are manifesting great desire to be instructed relative to their duties. sufferages and additional responsibility as enfranchised citizens - I find that the negros on these plantations have all corn forward and cultivated. and are with rather

quiet to the [illegible]

in regard to registration has induced them to avail themselves promptly of their privilege. and I am informed by the board of officers of this county that the registration among the freedmen here is a success -

These Barbecues have been held in different parts of the county during the month. at which political speaking was the order of the day. The Colored Union Leagues were in attendance dressed in the regalia of the society. their officers wearing their arms: Both Colored and white speakers occupied the stand. the programme so generally arranged so as to give speakers of both parties regardless of color an equal chance to address the audience. It is altogether probable that Colored delegates will be sent to the state Convention from Jefferson County. Many of the negroes at these barbecues have their guns and pistols with them. though as yet no serious difficulty has arisen therefrom. in one instance on the Snipes plantation one Rev Mr McDaniel (colored) and the only (colored) the Marshal of the League both dismounted for effect allowed themselves to

names and would have inflicted severe punishment upon each other had not Mr Webster deemed such a course unjustifiable and prevented upon them to abandon their enterprise for the time. it being near the hour for Mr McGuire to address the audience - Much time is necessarily occupied by the freedmen in attending their barbacues and in my opinion they are benefitted but little in doing so. procuring they are being injured by spending what little ready money they may have in the purchase of horses. liquor. and in buying sick. meats on the ground of which there are always plenty. also neglecting their work regardless of their own interest or that of their employer - many of them are injured physically by walking a long distance having no means whatever to buy refreshments. they remain on the ground for hours fatigued and hungry and when dinner is served they consume quantities of indigestible meat and bad bread. and on their way home are prostrated in drinking bad water, this inevitable consequence are sickness and sometimes death

The freedmen seem to manifest a desire to congregate. and to know that there is to

be a waiting on a barbarous is to many a
sufficient excuse from labor. the planters
are dispondent and say they know not
how to get their crops gathered. which
seem of their hands should do right yet
they can accomplish nothing without the
combined effort of all. but my reports of
June and July. I mentioned that there was
a prospect of a good crop in Jefferson Co.
the corn crop is very good and the
cotton crop is remarkably fine in most
of the plantations. and if the freedmen
could be induced to work as well in
the future as they have in the past. there
is nothing to hinder the most of the
planters and freedmen from doing
tolerably well this year. but I fear
that faculties will continues to fill their
minds with undue expectancy. there
advances for good being few and for
evil many. they will not see their mistake
until it is too late. we find the majority
are taking up and spending their earnings
as fast as due them. saving nothing for
the hour of need. those who are working
for a share of the crop are annoying their
employers for orders on the store and in
many cases it is all the planters can do to

keep them within their probable means. Some of the freedmen who have received from the planters advances over and above the probable value of their crops are now selling their time away. and the injured party seems to have no means of redress -

I apprehend that but few cases will occur under Special Order No 19. par 1 C. C. Mil Dr. 4th Mil Dist. none have as yet come to my notice.

In furtherance to instructions & publishing a statement in the Pine Bluff Dispatch which to the law obliging freedmen to work the roads a copy of which has been forwarded. Mr Williams has also told the freedmen at a barbecue recently held near the Red Roy Landing that he would advise them to hire after work the roads it being in conformity with the orders of the General Commanding the 4th Dist. but that as a U. S. Commissioner he was still of the opinion that they were not obliged to work the roads and that he could keep them from it under the Civil Rights Bill so far as so much as they were poor and the supreme authorities of the land held. an opinion contrary to his he expected advise thereof publication.

There are no schools in operation
now. The prospect for any suppporting
schools on plantations is less flattering
than it has been. The freedmen have
allowed the time to pass when they ought
to have put up suitable school houses.
not one has there for been built though
the promises to do so have been many.
Their attention has been frequently moved
to the fact that it will be necessary for
them to make a small appropriation of
their time and wages for school purposes.
Yet so far that by the freedmen themselves
have to defray all expenses pertaining to
plantation schools. that law fund can
be established here this fall -

Several applications for the restoration
of Abandoned Lands have been forwarded
during the month. No orders have been
received and consequently can make
no report of changes in the list of
Abandoned Lands.

The Freedmens Hospital now contains
83 patients and 7 orphan children. The
apartments are overcrowded and sickness
throughout the country seems to be in-
creasing. Dr James M Lewis is in charge
attendance. And has done very efficient

cases to manage. The County authorities
are doing anything towards the relief of
extreme County paupers - The Chief Com-
has orders issued to visit in and about
the city. Also on the different plantations.
On the Jenkins plantation they had 40
deaths (8 men 1 woman and 6 children) on
the Bell & Bontanel place they had
Eighteen cases, ten deaths (8 men 2 women
and 2 children). The freedmen seem not
acclimated and seem all from Georgia.
on Shepherds Island they had 9 deaths
and 15 cases. a few deaths from chorea
still occur throughout the county. but it
is not on the increase - I have distributed
5 barrels of lime for disinfecting the pre-
mises of indigent freedmen. have caused some
families to move to the country -

Mr Jenks Wilson is getting along
slowly on the school house. thus far
he is doing good work. the frame is up
get wholly weatherboarded. some of the
best mechanics have vacated to work for
him. they even promise cash payment
of wages weekly. but Mr Wilson seems
to be out of funds and says he cannot
pay them rental. this record is clear. thus
is not sufficiently satisfactory to the

workmen. they are afraid many of being wholly deprived of their wages especially if the Widow should ever get hold of the money - I am informed that the building will be completed by the middle of the month. but it is my opinion that it will take at least till the first of October to complete the work -

I am Dear

Sir very respectfully

Your ob't Serv't

S. Geiswite

Lieut Engineers

Benton Ar. Sept 6.
Pine Bluff Ark. Sept 11th 1869

Henry Page Esq
Supt D.D. Schools
Little Rock Ark.

Sir,

I have the honor to request information as to whether any arrangements have been made to have a well or cistern near the new School-house, one or the other of which will be imperatively necessary, as we cannot depend on obtaining water for the School from neighboring wells.

I am Sir.
Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
S. Guisenbery
Teacher Colored School

Kenaw R. & L.
Pine Bluff Ark Sept 11 1867

Henry Page Esq
[redacted] R. R. Co.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir

At the request of Mr Jenks Wilson I have the honor to state that the work on the School house is progressing well. the house is now enclosed. the belfry is completed. and the outside of the building is partly painted. the work seems to be well done

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Geisreiter
Sub'l Engr [illegible]

Bureau R. Fy. L.,
Pine Bluff Ark.
Sept 11th 1864

Henry Page Esq
A. A. & C. G. B. R. Fy. L.
Little Rock Ark,

Sir,

I have the honor to [redacted]cknowledge the receipt of Check No 696 on Merchants National Bank Little Rock Ark for the sum of $97 Dollars payable to my order.

I am sir

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
S. Reinhart
Local Agent B. R. Fy L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark. Sept 11th 1865.

Lieut Jno. E. Bennett.
A. A. A. G. B. R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock. Ark.
Lieutenant-

I have the honor to transmit herewith some correspondence between [redacted] D. W. Carroll Esq. County Judge of this County, and to particularly invite your attention to the Judges letter of the 2nd inst wherein he says that the County Court has regarded the financial condition of the County as inadequate to provide suitable buildings for the accommodation of the many colored persons who may come under the head of sick paupers &c - When the County Court was in session on the 26th ult they allowed an account of two thousand Dollars to John D. Bacon for services rendered in taking the Records of the County to Texas during the war - The services were rendered under Confederate authority. and the County Court is now

appropriating the peoples money in paying men for aiding the rebellion. while at the same time loyal citizens of the county are praishing for the want of timely aid - the Pauper Hospital here is now over crowded and more are daily applying for admission - Considering the impoverished condition of the freedmen. the vast amount of sickness among them. and the seeming indifference on the part of the civil Authorities to care for their poor, it will be necessary that the hospital building be enlarged so as to hold an additional thirty beds. or that a separate ward be built of the same capacity in order to prevent much suffering and save human life - something must be done and that at once - Judge Carroll says that if some one should take in the paupers and care for them: that they would be paid for their trouble by the county, this is at present out of the question - The freedmen are not able, and the whites have not the sympathy -

I would respectfully ask for instructions in the case.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
L. Weisweiler
Supt Freedmen Hospital

P. B. D. & Co.

Pine Bluff Ark. Sept. 11th 64

Lieut. John C. Lemmon 2nd Div.
A. A. G. P. B. D. & Co.
Little Rock Arkansas

Lieutenant:

You will [redacted] that Gen. A. L. Lee will comply without unnecessary delay with S.O. No. 99, C. of Opt. Corps, &c. &c. the purposes starting for De Valls Bluff on saturday the 14th inst. & will report to Gen. D. McCollough Agent &c. that place without delay

I am Lieutenant

Very respectfully
Your obt. Servt
S. Leicester
Lieut & Agt P. B. D. & Co

P. R. & Ad. Pine Bluff
Ark. Sept 12th 1863

Myers & Barton
Pine Bluff Ark

Gentlemen:

Enclosed [illegible]
[illegible] in relation to the [illegible]
the same is respectfully returned for correction.
A [illegible] copies of the annexed oath of all the members of
the [illegible] is required also the seal of the County Court
[illegible] the Clerk has signed his name in the
[illegible] or accompanying papers [illegible] find
[illegible] you required to comply.

Your Obt Servt

Very respectfully
Your obdt Servt
D. Cornutte
Comd't Cav'l & R. D's

P. R. A. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Sept. 12/67

Mrs Jane S. Skinner:

I have the honor to enclose herewith your application for the restoration of your property & to invite your attention to the General order & would respectfully request that you furnish the additional evidence required & return the papers to this office at your earliest convenience

I am Madam

Very respectfully
Your obdt Servt
A. Geissler
Lieut & Asst P.B. Sub

Ret. Indorsement 5 in E.S. Page 172

Bureau R. F. & A. C.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Sept 12th 1865

Asst Adjt Genl Maj
Pine Bluff Ark,

Sir,

Enclosed please find returned for completion your application for the restoration of your property. Your attention is respectfully invited to the endorsement of the General Commanding. You will please return the papers filled complete without delay.

I am Sir
Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
S Beaurle
Lieut & Agt B R F & A C,

Bureau R. F. & L.,
Pine Bluff Ark
Sept 12th 1867

Messrs Hawley & Johnson
Agents for Anthony Rodgers Esq.
Dear Sirs -

You will furnish this office without delay with the necessary application and deductions for the restoration of the property said to belong to Anthony Rodgers of Chicago. or the same will be taken charge of and controlled by this office -

I am Gentlemen -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt

S. Geiosuita
Local Agent B. R. F. & L.

Bureau R. Fr. & L.
Port Bluff Ark.
Sept 12th 1865.

Dr Jas A Smith,
Granville Co. N. C.

Doctor,

I have the honor to state that no order of restoration of your property will be issued in your case until you furnish this office with a correct copy of your amnesty oath. the correctness of which will be certified to by the proper Clerk of the county court where you reside. with the county seal affixed - You will also furnish an affidavit that you do not belong to any of the excepted classes mentioned in the amnesty proclamation taken before the Clerk of the court,

Please attend to this without delay -

I am Sir

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S Geisweiler
Asst Supt Bu R. F. & L.

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Sept 13th 1864

Lieut Jno E Bennett.
A. A. A. G. B. R. F & A. L.
Little Rock Ark.

Lieutenant:

I have the honor to report that the cholera is becoming epidemic in and about Pine Bluff. Had three deaths at the Freedmen's Hospital within the last two days and the probability is that we will have more new cases soon. Wm H. C. Dilwolf being an old Hospital Steward and familiar with the disease has become very useful in assisting Dr Jas M. Lewis in treating the many cases of Cholera Morbus, and the few cases of Cholera that have occurred at the hospital during this month. His services are for the present indispensable to Dr Lewis, and I would respectfully request that he be permitted to delay reporting to Mr McCullough until the services of a

competent steward can be secured from
St Louis who has been telegraphed for.

I am Lieutenant -

Very respectfully
Your most Obt Servt
L Quisenberry
Lieut & Agent M.R.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Mis Bluff Ark.
Sept 16th 1867

Lieut Jno C Bennett.
A. A. G. B. R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock. Ark.
Lieutenant.

I have the honor to transmit herewith List of Citizen Employees as per Circular Letter. dated Little Rock Ark Sept 6th 1867.

I am Lieutenant.
Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Geisweite
Lieut 1st Cav. B.R. F. & A.L.

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Bureau R. F. & L.
Miss Bluff. Arkansas
Sept 18th 1867

Henry Hoyt Esq
Supt. B. & B. Bk. No 11
Little Rock Ark.

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Check to 765- on M. M. Bank. Little Rock Ark for $20.00 payable to the order of L W Poore.

I am Sir,

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt

[redacted]

Special Agent R. F. & L.

Bureau R. and A. L.
Vicksburg Miss.
Sept 19th 1867

J. Gordon Adams Esq
Attorney at Law.
Vicksburg Miss.

Sir.

Rachel Hamilton, Colored, states that in the Autumn of 1865. she employed you to collect from the U. S. Government Arrears of pay &c of her husband Wash. Hamilton who died in the U. S. service at Vicksburg Miss. and that she has not heard from you since she left her claim with you for collection -

I have the honor to request that you inform this office of your actual connection what has been done in the matter, and what more is necessary to be done on her part to effect a speedy settlement of the same -

Very respectfully

Lucius Lyon Brig. Gen. & A. A. Gen'l

Bureau R. Prop. & B.
Fort Bliss Texas. Sept 20th 1881.

Rev. B. K. Miller.
Ft Bliss Chaplain
Fort Park. Texas.

Sir.

I have the honor to inform you that I am in receipt of a bill of furniture from A. A. Andrews & Co of Chicago Ill. to the amount of $1925.00. the same has been bought by Mr Colby in my name. the bill is made out in my name. and the furniture has been forwarded and is consigned to me. I am expected to pay freight and charges from Paso here - the storekeeper urges me to this letter to remit amount at once. I cannot understand this proceeding - I have no authority to purchase and cannot disburse a dollar for freight or otherwise until I am duly authorized by the Asst Commissioner. and then payment will only be made after the vouchers are properly signed - I am of the opinion that Col Pope is

the proper person to settle this matter. shall confer with him and advise me at once. the furniture will be here soon -

The house will not be done for a month yet. nobody seems to be in a hurry. they have put in a back floor in one room. shall stop such work in the other -

My health has been very poorly. cannot stand it to ride much. have not found a house yet for the teachers. will see Mr Hammer today. he has I am told a nice residence to let -

I am Sir

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt

S. Eggleston
Lieut Dodge 1st U.S. Inf'y

Bureau R. F. & A. C.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Sept 20th 1864.

C. A. Clark Esq
Cashier Mch. Bank.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to state that Check No 693. for $9 1/2 issued by Henry Page Esq July 14th 1865. payable to my order has been returned. Please honor the same when presented.

I am Sir
Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
L. Reichenheimer
Disbursing Agt. B.R.F. & A.C.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A L
Pine Bluff Ark
Sept 20th 1867

Henry Page Esq
S. A. & D. C. R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark

Sir

In reply to yours letter of the 14th inst. I have the honor to report that I have made diligent inquiries as to the best and cheapest manner of obtaining good waters at the new School house. To dig a well is not advisable. as it is a very uncertain manner of obtaining a good supply of water at all Seasons. there are no good well diggers here. there are none who I would like to curb them. or those that are offering to dig wells. Hence I have come to the conclusion to recommend. that a good cistern be built containing about 500 barrels of water. the expense of which will be according to the terms of Contract ordered. Viz. a Cistern 16 feet by 12 feet

lined with brick arched and well cemented. with
a filter. And lead pipe connecting filter with cistern
will cost $275.00 without filter and pipe $260.00

Gutters of Steet tin 104 feet. at 30¢ per foot	31.20
Pipe do 3 in. 35 feet at 30¢ per foot	10 50
Pump of good Size	9 00
Zinc pipe. 18 feet at. 50¢ per foot	9 00
	319 70

A cistern the same size lined with brick. top of brick
to come one foot above ground. well cemented. no
arch. covered on top with plank (without filter)
can be built for about $225-

Gutters Pipe & Pump	60
Total	$285.00

This last kind of cistern is said to be very good and
durable. And I would respectfully recommend
that I be authorized to contract for building one
Similar at the School-house.

I would also recommend that a cistern
of the same dimensions and kind. be constructed
at the hospital. the well which is forty feet deep
has entirely failed. the curbing is giving
out and it is unsafe to repair the same

I am paying at the rate of Seventy five cts per day to have mules hauled to the hospital which is of bad quality; the health of the patients is much impaired by the use of the same

I am Sir

Very respectfully

Yours Obt Servt

S. Weisiger

Lieut & A.A.C.S. 6th Corps

Dept & R.R.S. & A.L.

Bureau R. F. & L.
Fort Pikeuff Sept 28. 1865

Lieut Jno. B. Bennett
A. A. A. G. B. R. F. & L.
Little Rock Ark

Lieutenant.

I have the honor to report that in pursuance to instructions received. I purpose starting for Arkansas to this morning to summon the witnesses in Samuel Hoel's case, and obtain the draft of Mr Kimbrough's horses and surroundings.

The ponies will be on the road at least 48 hours. they have no money, and how they will subsist in the mean time I cannot tell. The stage leaves here on this morning of the 29th inst which will cause the witnesses to be in Little Rock on the evening of that day. This is the best I can do, for the stage will not leave here again until the morning of the first

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Leigh Streeter
Lieut Agent B. R. F. & L.

Bureau R. Pd Off,
Pine Bluff Ark Sept 25th 1867

Jenks Wilson Esq
Pine Bluff Ark,

Sir,

I have the honor to respectfully invite your attention to the manner in which some of the work is being slighted at the school house -

I find that the floor is being laid without the joists being bridged. that there is about one foot of lath unsupported by scantling over the chimneys. that the weatherboards have been badly sprung when put on. and that some of the lathing is badly done. first by the scantling not being properly straightened. and secondly by the lath being entirely too close so that the joints overlap the joists and too far apart. the partition in the teachers room if completed in the manner it is begun (which I fear it will have to be if the same material is allowed to remain) will be out of order with any appearance

the floor I also of the opinion is not as well laid as it ought to be. the materials of which the chimneys are built is not what the contract calls for. the joist holes are only two feet clear and other minor matters which I presume will be rectified in time.-

I am Sir.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt

S Geisreiter
Lieut Vol Engrs B.R.F.D. N.Z.

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Bureau R. F. & L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Sept 25th 1869.

Maj. Gen. Howard
Comd'g D.C. & R. Bds. &c.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir:

I have the honor to state that on the 2nd inst I forwarded your receipts signed for forage and wished respectfully called your attention to the fact that no invoices of the same have yet been received.

I am Sir,

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
A. Reinecke
Sub Agent B.R.F. & L.

Bureau N. W. T.
Fort Benton
Sept 26th 1867

John Macon Esq
Fort Benton

Sir

You are hereby
required to appear at this office on
Saturday the 28th inst at 2 o'clock P M
for the purpose of investigating and settling
a matter at issue between yourself and
Lt. Murphy and Isaac Black, Citizen,
& your compliance with this order
will be expected -

O. Culbertson
Supt Indian Affairs N.W.T.

Bureau R.F.M.A.
Fort Blackfoot Montana

To W. Moriarity Esq

Sir

You are hereby directed to appear at this office on Saturday the 28th inst at 2 o'clock P.M. for the purpose of investigating charges alleging a violation of treaty by you in selling liquor to Indians.

S. Seizgelder
Asst Agent B.F.R.F.M.A.

Office Bureau of [illegible]
[illegible]
Oct 26th 1863

[illegible]
[illegible]
Sir

I have the honor to inform
you that Richard Reed, who [illegible]
Richard Reed, late [illegible] Co. [illegible]
Colby Chamberlain, died [illegible]
[illegible]

died [illegible] the 28th inst [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

Office Asst. Com. of Ref. &c
Pine Bluff Ark
Sept. 27th 1867

Lieut. John E. Bennett.
A.A.A. G. Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark

Lieutenant

I have the honor to report that I have served the Summonses sent me by you in accordance with the letter of instructions dated Sept 9th 1867 I have summoned all the witnesses named in any report of the 9th inst. eight for the prosecution three for the defence; the negroes are instructed to be here by day light on the 28th inst. So as to take the Stage for Little Rock. I did not see Dr Bryant he was absent from home. I left the Summons at his home and gave it to his wife after reading it to her. Mrs Frank Latch is a very unreliable woman she informed me in a very surly tone of voice that perhaps he would be there by he died

(Over)

must get sick. Mrs Berkly Kimbrough informs me that he has been quite unwell all Summer and that he is unable to travel as far as the Rock unless he can go by boat. he says that he can be of no benefit to the wreck. that he knows nothing about the case. Enclosed please find a rough draft of Mrs Kimbroughs journal

Benjamin Kimbrough informs me that before Mrs Berkly Kimbrough went to Memphis last Spring, he made his braggs that he would keep a man with him that would keep things Straight and while Mrs Kimbrough was absent Mrs Lewis (Mrs Reed) commenced interfering with the hands. (See Mrs Kimbroughs Statement in my report of Sept 97).

George Sills States that Mrs Berkly Kimbrough has told him that she intends charging the boys ten dollars per day while they are absent on this business

I am Lieutenant
Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
D. Gibson
Lieut 1st U.S.C.G. Cor
Off Green R. Ky.

Office Asst Com R.C.R.R.A.L.
Little Rock Ark
Sept 27 1865

Lieut. John A. Spencer
A.A.A.G. R.C.R.R.A.L.
Little Rock Ark.
Lieutenant

I have the honor to report that I have investigated the case of James Lone Col'd against John Dye. Enclosed please find the statements of the witnesses. and those of the R.S. of Dye. James Lone and Lizzie Mason (the injured parties) living at a plantation some distance off I could not see them Henry Goad. Col'd, Jacob C. Coady. Edmund Sadler. and Reuben Dye. are all on the same plantation. and their testimony can be obtained at any time. Reuben Dye and John Dye are Brothers the former remained loyal through the rebellion. and the latter participated in the rebellion and was a Soldier in the Southern Army during the entire war. they are partners in the Contract. with James Lone. and Lizzie Mason are interested Lizzie Masons name appears on the Contract also that of her two eldest children. Davis and Mary Ann both of whom are Cripples as one hand Lone is the former of the year his crop is not good. the heavy rain is doing much damage. and what Cotton there

Augt 15 to finish up there. Inclosed I send
you a copy of Rep. Bryan's letter which please read
and Sign Same by it you will see that
the freedmen abroad think considerable
yet I think that of the crop was gathered in
time. and the Planter thoroughly discouraged
that the freedmen would do tolerably well
I inquired of many freedmen in that portion
of Arkansas County. as to their conditions and
future prospects. and find that the views of
them are wholly dissatisfied. the freedmen
that seem to have no hopes of being able to
obtain a fair settlement at the close of the
year without the aid of the Bureau. when
refer them to the Civil Magistrates they
shake their heads and tell one that it would
only make matters worse. instead of
better. that the Civil officers are their foes
and that they cannot expect redress of grievances
through that channel. until better men are put in
their places. Many planters are only renting
ground. and after they once ship their cotton
have no further interest in the county
the freedmen cannot give security. in order
to obtain an attachment from the Civil authorities
on the cotton raised by them, and thus
their crops may be stolen & swindled, after
appropriating it to myself, and the freedmen in
many instances will doubtless be defrauded
out of their due unless there is an agent of
the Bureau at the mouth river to look at

the Shipment of the cotton and complete
a Settlement.

I am Lieutenant
Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
A Vieuvelter
Lieut 8th U.S.C. Cav
Agt Bureau R.F. & L.

Office Bureau R. of W. & L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Sept 27th 1867

Gen Morgan L. Brown Esq

Sir

In obedience to instructions from the General Commanding I have the honor to inform you. That the Girl Polly Ann Johnson, now living with you, will have to return to her parents in Georgia, without delay. You will bring her to Pine Bluff, at your earliest convenience, together with all the Clothing She may now have and I will take charge of her as soon as She arrives here.

I Am Sir
Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
[signature]
Lt & Agt B R of F & A L

Office Bureau R.E.F. & A.L.
Prine Bluff Ark
Sept 28th 1867

D.W. Carroll
County and Probate Judge for Jeff Co Ark

Sir

In accordance with instructions from the General Commanding I have the honor to enclose herewith a Copy of Gen'l Order No 25. dated Head Quarters 3rd Military District Miss and Arkansas. Vicksburg Miss Sept 6th 1867 and to most respectfully invite your attention to paragraph 8. of Said Order

I am Judge
Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Casseleer
Sup't Agt Bureau R.E.F. & A.L.

Office Bureau R.E.& A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Sept 26th 1865

Henry Page Esqr
S.A. & D.O. B.R.E.& A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith for payment two Sets of Vouchers for actual expenses incurred while travelling through my county on urgent public duty, which required my presence on the different plantations

I am Sir

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Tarbell
Asst Agent B.R.E.& A.L.

Office Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Sept 28th 1865

W. A. Neil Esqr
Andrews Plantation
Sir

Complaint having been made by Harrison Galloway (col'd) that you have refused to issue rations to him, and that he is unable to comply with his part of the Contract in Consequence. I have the honor to inform you. that you have no right under the Contract, to take such Steps as will prevent your Hands from doing good work. You will therefore continue to issue the regular ration to Harrison Galloway and Should you fail to do So damages will be assessed and Collected

I Am Sir
Very respectfully Your obt Svt
D. Reisnecker
Lieut & Asst. B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abd'd Lands
Pine Bluff Ark
Sept 20th 1867

Genl O. H. Ingalls.
Asst Adjt Genl U.S.A.
Washington D.C.

General

I have the honor to report that I am on duty in the Bureau of Refugees Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, pursuant to S.O. One 52. dated Head Quarters Dept of the Arkansas. Little Rock. Ark. March 9th 1866. And am now on duty at Pine Bluff Ark. per. S.O. One 15. Current Series Assistant Commissioners Office

I am General

Very respectfully,

Your Obt Servt

A. Gillette

2nd Lieut 5th U.S.C. Cav

Asst B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Sept 30th 1867

Maj Genl O. O. Howard
Commissioner Bureau R.F & A.L.
Washington D C
General

I have the honor to report
That I Am On duty in the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen
And Abandoned Lands pursuant to S.O. No 52
Dated Head Quarters Department of the Arkansas.
Little Rock Ark. March 9th 1866. And Am now
On duty at Pine Bluff. Ark per S.O. No 15
Current Series Assistant Commissioners
Office

I am General.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
A. Gouverneur
2d Lieut 5th U.S.C.T. Cav.
Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark
October 1st 1867

Mrs Jas Dorse
Whitley Plantation
Sir

Complaints having been made by Nelson Jarden (Col'd) and Pleasant Wilson (Col'd) that you persist appropriating the entire crop of Corn raised by them on your plantation. And that you refuse to give them the one third of the fodder gathered by them to which they claim they are entitled under the contract. which I am informed is in your possession. it is therefore ordered. that you will cause the entire crop of Corn. and the whole of the fodder to remain on your plantation and not alienate any of the same to be used by either party until the matter is decided by referees one to be selected by each party interested

they will select a third party. The proceedings will be reduced to writing and submitted to this office for approval a strict attention to the above will be expected

I am Sir

Very respectfully,
your obt Servt
A Bissitt
Lieut and Agt B R Indns

Office Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Oct 1st 1867

Bvt Maj Louis. F. Morris
Commanding Post of Pine Bluff
Major

I have the honor to transmit herewith some legal documents in a case where Richard Waters, Colored is accused of being implicated in the Stealing of a mule, which was taken from the Horton Plantation by one W. H. Bradford. I would respectfully invite your attention to the prisoners own statement of the case, who is now in the hands of the Sheriff. Under existing orders it seems that the civil Authorities can no longer hold horse thieves as these implicated in the Stealing of horses for trial. I therefore refer the case to you for your action under Genl Orders No. 2. Hdqrs Head Quarters 4th Military District. Miss & Ark. — Vicksburg Miss. May 16th 1867. The testimony of

(Over)

The witness does not seem to be very communicative but I am informed that evidence can be obtained against the prisoner as soon as the parties returned have gone in pursuit of H. McBrayer.

I am Major

Very respectfully

Your Obt Servt

A Cornish

Lieut & Actg R.A. Supt

Office. Bureau. Refugees. Freedmen & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark
October 1st 1867

John. Stoddard. Jr.
Lis

The bearer George Dixon. (Coll.) complains of a Mrs Wm Morgan. your Agent on the "Gaull and Bertrand" Place. habitually using profane and abusive language towards him. And that he has threatened him with violence and to drive him off the plantation. You will please give this matter a thorough investigation. And cause your Agent Mrs Wm. Morgan to abstain from the use of abusive language towards the hands and to hereafter refrain from. such conduct as will cause the freedmen to feel insecure while they remain under his control

I Am Lis

Very respectfully
Yours obt Servt
S Ceriello
Lieut & Agent B R F & A L

Office Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Oct 1st 1867

Brevet Major L. Cass. Forsyth
Chief D.M. Sub. Dist. Ark
Little Rock Ark

Major

I have the honor to most respectfully State that on the 4th ult. I forwarded a communication to your Office in relation to my commutation for fuel and quarters for the month of August no orders to that Same has been received. And I Apprehend that the letter has probably been miscarried. and last if so please notify me. and oblige

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
D. Gisseler
2nd Lieut
Lieut Agent B.R.F.F. & L.

Ref. No. 4

Office Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark
October 1st 1867

Henry Rye Esq
S.A. & D.O. B.R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to State that on the 4th ult. I forwarded two Sets of Vouchers. one for mileage. and the other. for actual Expenses while Travelling under S.O. No 11 C.S. Assistant Commissioners Office. together with a letter of transmittal explaining to you in full why the same was done. So as to facilitate the payment of either one or the other of the two set of vouchers. I would most respectfully inform you. that no funds have reached me in payment of the same

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
A Huntsville
Lieut & A.A.G.

Office Q. M.
Pine Bluff Ark Oct. 1st 63

Jno. F. Glenn Esq.
Pine Bluff Ark:

Sir:

I have the honor to send you by bearer the keys to the building heretofore occupied by me as an office and to most respectfully state that I should have notified you at an earlier date but could not decide untill I was ready. I have established my office at the house formerly occupied by Capt Stebbins. The small out house built by Maj. Davis and turned over by him to me will be removed by me to morrow and the premises left in as good order and condition as I found them. Back rent due for July August and Sept will be paid as soon as funds are received from Little Rock

I am sir

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
[illegible]

A. A. A. G. & A.
Pine Bluff Ark Oct 1st 63

Lieutenant Wm. L. Barton 3rd Inf.
A. A. Gen. Post of Pine Bluff
Lieutenant.

I have the honor to transmit herewith requisitions for forage for two first lieuts for the month of October 1863. Please issue at your convenience such forage as you may have on hand should prefer more oats than coin if you can spare it

I am Lieutenant

Very Respectfully
Your Obdt Servt.
L. Leiserter
1st Lieut 5th Wis. Cav. Actg. A. A. C. S.

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark
October 1st 1867

Lieutenant John E Bennett
A.A.A. Genl B R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Lieutenant

I have the honor to transmit herewith Monthly Report of Freedmen for the Month of September 1867

I am Lieutenant
Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
S Willitts
Lieut & Agent B.R.F. & A.L.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Ld
Prin Bluff Ark
Oct 2. 1867

Brevet Major Louis. H Morris
Comdg Post
Majr.

Will you have the
kindness to Spare one One Set of Pay Accounts
And Also One Set of No 17. Vouchers for actual
Expenses.

And oblige
Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
O. Brown
Lieut & Asst A A G

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Olive Bluff Miss
October 2nd 1867

Dennis & Smith
Gentlemen

It. Agent of the Bureau being credibly informed that Smartindale and Lee. have settled with you, and that your books show a balance due them of One hundred and thirty three dollars (133^{00}) and for which they now hold your due bill. and the Agent being further informed that the said Smartindale & Lee. have not settled with the freedmen employed by them during the month of September. and that they are thereby deprived of the wages due them. it is Therefore ordered. that you will not pay the said Smartindale and Lee the balance due them on settlement - until they have settled with the employees and paid them in full. A Strict Compliance

(Over)

with this order is expected

I am Gentlemen

Very respectfully

Yours &c

1st Lieut

L. Weisner

Lieut & Agent B.R.F.&L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Fort Bluff Ark
Oct 2" 1867

Mrs. Lydia. S. Reed.
Madam

The assistant-Commissioner having disallowed your account forwarded through this office by Bell & Carlton your Agents. for the use of the two lots on which the Freedmens Hospital now Stands. the same being deemed Exhorbitant. and having been Authorized to take up the property on any "Report of Rents and Articles Employed and hired" at a Compensation of fifty Dollars ($50.00) per annum. I have the honor to inform you that the vouchers for the rent of the two lots from April 2" 1866 To October 1st 1867. are now ready for Signature and would respectfully request that you call at my Office at your Earliest Convenience.. to Sign the Same in person that they may be

Duly

forwarded to Little Rock Ark for payment
without delay

I am Madam
Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
S. Ciscoe
Lieut & Agent B. R. Ind Affs

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark
October 1st 1867

Lieutenant John C. Bennett
A. A. A. General B. R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark

Lieutenant

I have the honor to transmit herewith two Sets of Vouchers for actual expenses incurred in making two Trips to the Dardanelle and Gary Plantations Arkansas County, and return for the purpose of obtaining Additional Evidence. Also issuing Summons on the witnesses in the case of the United States vs. Samuel Mark; not being positive as to whether they are to be paid by the Bureau or the Quartermaster Department, I would most respectfully request that you assist me in getting the same Credited.

I am Lieutenant
Very respectfully Your Obt. Servt
S. Lapsley
1st Lieut & Agent A. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Oct 1st 1867

Henry Page Esq
A.A. & D.C. B.R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith the following papers pertaining to duty in the Bureau R.F. & A.L. for the month of Sept. 1867

Report of Persons and Articles employed. duplicate
Receipt Roll of Hires men. duplicate
Vouchers for Rent for July, Aug. & Sept. Hire Est. duplicate
Please permit the Amount of Vouchers at your Earliest Convenience

I am Sir
Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Wisewitz
Lieut & Asst B.R.F.& A.L

Bureau R.F.& A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Oct 1st 1867

Henry Page Esq
A.A. & D.C. B.R.F.& A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith Monthly Return of Quartermasters Stores in duplicate for the month of September 1867

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
S. Ceruti
Lieut & Agent B.R.F.& A.L.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Oct 1st 1867

Henry Page Esq
A.A.A.G.O. B.R.F.&A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith Bimonthly Return of C.C.&G. Equipage in triplicate, for the Month of September 1867.

I am Sir
Very Respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Christler
Lieut & Asst A.A.G.

Quarter Master U.S.A.
Pine Bluff Ark
Oct 1st 1867

Henry Page Esqr
A.A. & D.C. B.R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith Monthly Return of Bureau Stores in duplicate for the month of Sept. 1867. with the necessary Vouchers. Viz.

Vouchers to Abstract B.
" to Abstract C.
" to Abstract G.
" to Abstract L.

I Am Sir
Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
S. Crisweller
Lieut. & Asst. Q.M. U.S.A.

Office Bureau R.O.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Oct 1st 1867

Maj Henry Page Esq
A.A. & D.C. B.R.O.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith in duplicate, Quarterly Statement of Clothing Camp and Garrison Equipage pertaining to the Quartermasters Department for the Quarter ending September 30th 1867

I am Sir
Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
A. Meissner
Lieut & Agt. B.R.F. & A.L.

Office Bureau R. of F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark
October 1st 1867

Henry Page Esq
Sub Asst Com. B.R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith Quarterly Statement of Quartermasters property in duplicate for the Quarter Ending September 30th 1867.

I am Sir.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt.

S. Geisreiter
Lieut & Agent B.R.F. & A.L.

Bureau R.F.& A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Oct 2. 1867

Bvt Brevet Maj Geo Dept
Mc Gregor Plantation
Sir

I have the honor to request that you will call at this Office at your earliest convenience to give me whatever information you may have in regard to Maj Smith business of last year. Complaint has been sent to Little Rock by an unknown personage. who alleges that Maj Smith has disposed of his cotton last year without paying his hands. who are waiting for their pay. The case is referred to me by the General Commanding for investigation and report. which I am desired to make with as little delay

I Am Sir
Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
S Ellsworth
Lt. & Asst. A.A.G. & A.D.L.

Bureau R. E. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark
October 3d 1867

Reuben Doyle Esq
Doyle Plantation
Sir

I have the honor to inform you that I am directed by the Assistant Commissioner to cause the freedmen to return to your plantation and secure this crop. And to hold you personally responsible for their Safety. Should both parties desire a Settlement there will be no objection on the part of this office. provided the same is entirely equitable. you will notify the freedmen wherever they may be and induce them to return without delay. either to work as to form a Settlement. And report in full your action in the matter without unnecessary delay

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Reinecke
Lt & Asst B R F & A L

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Oct 1st 1867

Henry Page. Esq.
A.A. & Q.C. B.R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Sir.

I have the honor to transmit herewith Quarterly Statement of Stores pertaining to Bureau of Refugees Freedmen and Abandoned Lands for the quarter Ending Sept 30th 1867

I am Sir
Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
H. Schneider
Capt & Agent B.R.F. & A.L.

H. Schneider

Office of the
Pine Bluff Cotton Co.

Pine Bluff Ark
Gentlemen:

I have to transmit herewith duplicate copy of
our order issued by me directing
the foreman of the Del Rio gin to
collect yarn from the firm of
Smith and Simms until such
evidence is produced showing that the
planters employed by said firm
October 1883 have been furnished the
wages due them

Yours respectfully
Pine Bluff Cotton Co
Per [illegible]
Supt & Agt Del Rio

Q. M. Dept.
Pine Bluff Ark Oct 5th 63

L. C. Hutton Esq.

Sir.

You are hereby directed to call at this office at your earliest convenience on business. You will bring with you your docket as J. P.

I am sir

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Carpenter
Lieut & Asst Q M

Bureau B.I. & L.
Pine Bluff Ark Oct 5th 65

Wm Adam Statham

Sir.

You are hereby directed to appear at this office, without delay in business in which you are interested

Respectfully
Your obt
Lt & Agt B.I.&L.

Pleasant Bluff Ark
June Bluff Ark Oct 5th 67

Mr. Allen Scott
Sir:

You are hereby directed to call at this office at your earliest convenience on business in which you are interested

Respectfully
S. Cochrane
Lieut & Asst Q M

Bureau of R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff, Ark. Oct 1st, 1867

Lieutenant John B. Bennett, 28th Inft.
A. A. A. G. B. R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock, Ark.

Lieutenant,

I have the hon. to submit the following as my narrative report for the month, ending September 30th, 1867.

The unfinished business of the preceding month has all been attended to, except that in relation to the building claimed by the African M. E. Church and the abandoned lands yet unrestored to their owners. As to the former, it seems that there is a want of means and of harmony among the people. Rev. Geo. Rutherford, colored, has charge of the church, but his time is now chiefly devoted to political matters. I have had Mr Rutherford and other trustees of the church together and advised them how to proceed in order to obtain the building; but they have not gone by my directions. I have postponed making a special report, hoping that the trustees would be able to raise the necessary means to enable me to restore the building to them in pursuance with the instructions received. I think that they are able to accomplish the object

In regard to abandoned Lands, I would state that the applications for petitioning forwarded in August never petitioned for additional evidence. The applicants have all been notified, but thus far, nothing has been done by the parties interested, owing partly to irregularity of the mails, but mainly to indifference; consequently, no orders of petitioning have been received during the month.

On pursuance to orders, I have visited the Kimbrough and Gorey plantations in Adk. Co twice during the month on business connected with the case of the United States against Samuel Mack, accused of the murder of Robin Kimbrough colored (See my reports of the 9th & 27th ultimo)

My health being greatly impaired by frequent exposure to the hot sun and night air, I have not been able to visit as many plantations as in former months. Should my health continue to improve, I purpose visiting as many plantations as I can during this month, and if at all possible make arrangements for more plantation schools, though the present prospect is anything but flattering. The low price of cotton indicates that the planters will lose heavily on their crops, and the freedmen in many instances, will not make enough to pay their indebtedness. There is such a want of unanimity among them (freedmen) that wherever they have

have agreed to build a school house in time for a fall school. They have failed to fulfill their promises. In some localities the freedmen have been brought from other States and promised returns thither as soon as their contracts expire for the present year. This class of persons take no interest in the building of school houses.

The new school house in the course of erection here, will be ready for use the first of November. When completed it will be a very comfortable and commodious building.

The cholera, as an epidemic, raged among the freedmen of this county, fearfully, during the last month. It is now abating somewhat. The number of deaths, I have not been able to ascertain.

The Freedmans Hospital is still overcrowded. The new ward will be done the 10th of this month. I purposed having it completed ere this, but was disappointed in getting lumber. The material for repairing the old building is on the ground, and I am pushing the work as rapidly as possible so as to get it done before the wet weather sets in.

I am endeavoring to do this work with as little expense as possible to the Government.

Several planters have told me that they apprehend serious troubles on the part of

of freedmen next Christmas. It is rumored among them that they would settle their own way this time; that it has been the white man's settlement long enough; that the rebels will have to leave the valley, and when they have gone, they will go for the Yankees etc. Thus far, I have not been able to trace these rumors to any particular individual; yet I am convinced that great dissatisfaction exists among the freedmen in the northern part of my district. They are frequently holding meetings of a secret character, sometimes protracting them until 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning; messengers, I am informed, coming and going constantly. As these negroes are all armed, the planters are becoming fearful that these secret meetings are held for insurrectionary purposes. Thus far I have treated these rumors with apparent indifference, telling planters that it was my opinion that these meetings are purely of a political nature. I shall, however, watch closely the progress of events.

The girl Polly Ann Johnson, taken from Albany, Georgia, by Morgan L. Brown, to his plantation in this county, and whom I am directed to cause to be returned to her parents has not yet been brought to this office. I have ordered Mr. Brown to bring the girl to Vicksburg without delay. I shall forward

her to Memphis en route to Albany by the first boat after her arrival.

The boll worm has damaged the cotton crop considerably in some localities. Dry, however, facilitates the labor of picking cotton the bolls open the more readily. The freedmen are mostly employed in picking. Many women and children are laborers in the field. The freedmen manifest more of a disposition to be industrious than they did during the months of July and August.

I am Lieutenant,

Very respectfully

Your Obt. Servt.

S. Chevallier

Lieut 5th Ind Cavalry

Actg Asst Q.M.

Paris Ark
Pine Bluff Ark
Oct 9th 67

Henry Page Esq
S.A. & D.C.B.R.R. & S.S.
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to
acknowledge the receipt of Check No 38½ for
U.S. Amount of One Hundred & twenty One dollars
and fifty Cents ($121.50) on Merchants National
Bank of Little Rock also returning Empire
Vouchers No 16.

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
S. Goodlett
Lieut & Agent A.D.C.R.R.

Bureau R. Of & A L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Oct 9th 1867

Maj Gen Rufus Ingalls
Q.M. Gen U.S.A.
Washington D.C.

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith Requisitions for Stationery &c Supplies. and One Set of Vouchers for wood and forage &c Supplies and Receipts for Same

I am Sir

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
[illegible]
Chief Q.M. [illegible]

B.R.F & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark
October 18th 1869

John. C. Ward. Esq.
Pine. Bluff. Ark.

Sir

I have the honor to request your presence at this Office at Two o'clock this P.M. you will bring with you your Account against Daniel Marshall (Colored).

I Am Sir
Your Obt Servt

T. Gilreath
Lieut & Agent B.R.F. & A.L.

Quarters U.S. A. & Q.M.

Fort Bluff Cook. Co. Ill.

Maj. Gen. Rogers Comg.

U.S. & C.O. U.S. A. & Q.M.

Chicago Cook Co.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith four sets of each numbers for frog ground

George Early for purchase of lumber for repairs

on old hospital building & ground each former Hospital Steward

Smith & Dennis for lumber adding the former

Hospital Floor & Plate for foundation of the same $80.00

Eighteen Days for hardware necessary for building

the privies & repairing old hospital & oil for use of office 47.10

Lydia L Reed for rent on hospital ground 74.16

Total $762.26

The new hospital shed is nearly done it is eighteen by six feet & ten feet high and is being built on the most economical plan practicable. The roof of the old hospital building will be repaired by covering it with boards instead of shingles, the latter would be to expensive, while the former in the end, the roof is so flat for shingles & would soon ruin a copy of the communication from the Surgeon in charge directing the work to be done and

Very respectfully

Your obdt servt

S. Cushman

Lieut Col & Q.M.

P. S. A. Ft Ak
Pine Bluff Ark 12th 63

To
Brig Genl Hinsten (acdc)
Miss & Plantation
Sir:

I have
being actually informed that you
have effected a junction
with the armed of Ak Rebels in
one load of army gut as lately since
to return, with the whole amount
of stock on and to fully employ
with ins teams selected at this
office on the 11th inst. Such not of you
fail

Respectfully
Your Obdt
Quar Mr Capt

Office Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Oct 12th 1867

A. B. Shuttle Esq
Plum Bayou Plantation
Sir

Complaint having been made by one Carter Walker (Col'd) and others that you have at different times during the year turned your saddle horse into the [illegible] and that you have recently caused two Yoke of cattle you had and claimed together to be turned into the field, by one Frank D. (Coll) and thereby caused the crop to be damaged to a considerable extent it is hereby ordered that you will consult the interest of all concerned in the future management of the stock else necessary steps will be taken to secure full justice to the injured parties

I am Sir
Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
O. Sinnitt
Lt. & Asst. B.R. F. & A.L.

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Port Gibson Miss
Oct 12th 1867

Thomas Calloway Esq
Calloway Plantation
Sir

Complaint having been made at this office that you have in your employ a certain colored boy named [illegible] you have taken by force from the farm of [illegible] in Claiborne County, where his friends reside, and that you are now keeping him against his will. It is therefore ordered that you appear at this office without delay, and bring with you the colored boy in question. You will be held strictly responsible for the welfare and safety of the said boy. Don't fail to report immediately.

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
S. Eastman
Supt Bu R.F. & A.L.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Complaint having been made by one Henry Wilson (Cald) stating that you are indebted to said complainant with him and effects which [redacted] being raised by you and him in partnership and thereby deprive him of his earnings. It is therefore ordered that you appear at this office at the hour of 2 o'clock this afternoon to arrange the matter

S. Carpenter.
Lieut & Agt P R R R

Bureau R. C. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Oct 14th 1867

E. J. O'Kelly Esq
Sir

I have the honor to state that the Genl Robt. Thompson (Col'd) has made complaint to this office during your absence you absconded yesterday your master directed to whip him for not being more prompt in obeying his orders. And through fear ran away. he also states that you have kept him to work for you since the fourth of July. on condition that his wages were to be applied to pay out on a case where you assisted him to recover a watch and some tobacco from one Wesley for which he alleges has taken it from him by force. he further states that you have become security to him on bile at your house. and that he is afraid to return lest you would whip him. I have ordered the boy to return without delay and continue to work for you if you need him. but if you wish to dispense with his services you will settle with him at a compensation of Ten dollars per

Ones

per Orderly to order him to quietly take all his clothing and leave your premises. I will hold you individually responsible for the safety of the boy. You will make a report in full to this Office, and sign it officially as Justice of the Peace

I Am Sir

Very respectfully

Your obt Servt

S. Cristello

Saint & Asst. B.R.F.& A.L.

Office Bureau R.F.& A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Oct 14th 1867

Bvt Major Louis. D. Brown
Comdg Post of Pine Bluff Ark
Major

I have the honor to request that you will order a mounted Soldier to report to me at 9 oclock A.M. on the 15th inst I want him to Arrest a negro on the Napton place, three miles from Pine Bluff. And bring him to my Office

I am Major
Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
A Meister
Lieut & Agt B.R.F.& A.L.

Office Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Oct 14th 869

Henry Page Esq
S. A. & O. C. B. R. C. Nos.
Little Rock Ark

Sir

Your Accordeon with time Rolls received I have the honor to transmit herewith a Listing Pay and Articles transferred on Requisition. The Post Carpenter reported. One at work on the new Hospital Ward. And in repairing of all Hospitals. They will be done with this week by the Twentieth of this month. The services of Henry Mason (Col'd) with his Horse and Dray can be needed during the month to haul water daily. And occasionally a load of Lumber. His Services will come to about Twenty One Dollars And I Shall report him as having been to work Seven days at Three Dollars per day

I am Sir
Very respectfully
(Orig)

H.R.H. 3rd Bn.
Camp Belfast Oct 15th 1879

Private Michael Lindsay 2nd Co. 2nd
Battn Belfast is hereby ordered to proceed
without delay from camp to the Mounted
Police Encampment Belfast and bring him to
this office he will be met with
Wm Powell the manager on the farm
who is hereby directed to give him
all the assistance in his power in
apprehending the said Henry Henderson
(Colored)

Lt Commanding
Lieut & Adjt. [illegible]

P. O. & A. R.
Pine Bluff Ark Oct 15 1867

Mr Powell
Taylor Stanfortown
Sir.

You will please
hand the enclosed note to the parties
named therein and cause them to
report to this office at once

I am sir very respectfully
Your obt Servt
L Heiserita
Lieut 1st Regt

P. O. S. & A.
Camp Chief Lake Arrow No.

The following named Braves are duly elected to Office at this meeting this

Samuel Wyllys Orbo
Israel Lyon "
Thomas Leavenworth "

Lemuel Bronson
Secretary P. O. S. & A.

Office B. R. & F. L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Oct 15 1867

Maestin & Williams
Attorneys at Law
Pine Bluff Ark

Gentlemen

I have the honor to state that the property of one Peter Wellington a building containing (4) four rooms is on the books of this office as abandoned. The same has never been restored by the Asst Comr. I am credibly informed that you are his Agents and if so you will please make application for the restoration of the property setting forth all the facts in the case and transmit the same with proof of title and proof of loyalty. through this office to the Asst Comr at Little Rock for his action

I am Very respectfully
Yours obt Svt
O. Rainwater
Lieut & Asst B R F & A L

Office Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Oct 14th 1867

Lieutenant John E Bennett
A.A.A. Genl. B.R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark.

Lieutenant

I have the honor to State for the General of the parties whose application for the restoration of this property has been returned to them because they failed to annex a copy of this oath of amnesty. cannot furnish the same by reason of the original being lost. Can these parties take the Oath Again? The property of John S Rowe. consisting of a building. Kitchen. &c I am informed has been restored in S.O. 58 paragraph 2. Series of 1866. Asst Bureau Office. I would request to be furnished with a copy of the same for file in this office. Also of S.O. 19 paragraph 5th Series of 1866. Asst Bureau Office restoring the property of E. Wells Consisting of a frame house of two rooms in order to enable me to report changes in the list of Abandoned Lands

I am Lieut very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
[illegible]
Lieut Asst B.R.F. & A.L

B.B. Post Ck
Pine Bluff Ark Oct 16/63

Lieut. Jno L. Barton
Commdg Post
Lieutenant

I have the honor to request that you will permit the prisoner Henry Henderson (colrd) to go me to my farm with the leave Peter Heick (colrd). I shall investigate his case this morning

I am Lieutenant
Very respectfully
Your obedient servt.
E. Carruth
Lieut & Asst A.A.G.

Little Rock Ark Oct 16th 67

Maj. Paul Esq
A.A.G. D.C. Genl.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your draft No 972 on the Merchants National Bank of Little Rock Ark, for Three Hundred and twenty eight 50/100 dollars in payment of the following vouchers, viz.

Benijah Bell	207.17
L.O. Rose	121.33
	328.50

I am sir

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
L. Wisewell
Lieut & Asst A.A.G.

P. B. S. & A. R.
Pine Bluff Ark Oct 16/67

Maj. Paul Roy
A. A. G. P. B. S. & A. R.
Little Rock Ark
Sir.

I have the honor to return herewith your invoices for wood & stationary, and to most respectfully invite your attention to a mistake in the amount of wood invoiced. The purchase vouchers only call for twenty cords my receipts and your check corresponds with the same, while the invoices are made out for fifty cords. Please return the same at your earliest convenience

I am sir
Very respectfully
Your obt Svt
L. Gerrecke
Lieut & Agt P B S & A R R

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark
October 17th 1867

Bvt. Brig. Genl.
Asst Adjt Genl Johnson &c
Sir

Sam Gibson complains that he has been turned off the plantation by Gen. because he went to assist in raising a Gin yesterday on the Greenfield place. He states that he went by order of the foreman Jim of Lewis and that he knows of no other cause and would respectfully request that you investigate the case & state further the orders in regard to turning off men for trivial causes. Answer Strict. and at the same time to be very careful in assuming such authority

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
L Whittier
Supt Asst B R F & L

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Oct 21st 1867

Henry Page Esqr
Sup't B.R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Check No. 915 on the Merchants National Bank of Little Rock Ark in payment of Mrs Lydia S Reed's Vouchers for Ground Rent

I am Sir, Very respectfully
Your obt Servt

[redacted]
Lieut & Agt B.R.F. & A.L.

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Oct 21st 1867

I hereby certify that Morgan L. Brown
esq has this day brought to my Office
Polly Ann Johnson a freed girl who is to
be forwarded by me to her parents in Albany
Georgia in pursuance to instructions
received from the Asst Com's Office
Little Rock Ark. C.477. 67

O. Granniss
Lieut & Agt. B.R.F. & A.L.

Office R.O.B.S.A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Oct 26th 1867

S.R.B. Walton Jr
Crowland Home
Jeff Co. Ark

Sir

I have the honor to request that you will direct Robert Bryant Coll'd, to appear at this office at 9 o'clock A.M. On Monday the 28th inst without fail. The Corn will remain in the crib. unmolested by either part until further directions from this Office

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
J. Chandler
Lieut. & Agent B.R.F.&A.L.

B

Bureau R. C. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark
October 28th 1867

Dr Shelby Burry
Sir

Complaint having been made by one James Shanks (Col'd) of the States. that you together with your brother (Dr Burry) and a Mrs Harris. have entered his house during his absence on Saturday last. and taken from there a quantity of meat bought by him at Pine Bluff and for which he paid the amount of Forty dollars and twenty five cents ($40.75). You will without delay report to this Office in writing. the full particulars in relation to the affair. giving the names and residence of witnesses. for further investigation

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
J. Lieberter
Lieut & Asst A. C. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R.D.F. & L.
Fort Blunt Ark
Oct 29th 1867

Thomas Brewster Esq
Sir

I am directed by Lieut Col Clum to request that this office on Saturday the 2nd day of November 1867 I am will bring this Bureau books and papers relative to your account with the Bureau Refugees (Freedmen) for the year 1867

I am very respectfully
Your obt Servt
[illegible]
Lieut & Supt R D F & L

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Oct 29th 1867

Rufus B Haynes J. P.
Bartholomew

Sir.

You will report to this Office six months and without delay the exact circumstances connected with the giving of a Mortgage by one Ransome Adkins Colored, to Thomas Rhodates. The same is on record in the Clerks Office. And attested by you as Justice of the Peace. You will report also as to the condition of Adkins crop. And how far the Executive has complied with the stipulations of said Mortgage in the course of the year. I shall be pleased to see you at my Office at your earliest convenience. There are some very important orders sent with which you are expected to comply as Justice of the Peace

Very respectfully, Your obt Svnt
Lieut & Asst Supt

Bureau R. O. V. A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Oct 29th 1867

Ransom Adkins (Col'd)

You are hereby ordered to come to this office. on Saturday the 2nd of November 1867. on business in which you are deeply concerned

L. Rainville
Lieut & Agt B R O V & A L

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] I have the honor
to state that I am directed to ask
to give the second bill of lading
for invoice the same to your
Excellency in lieu of the one
sold

I am very respectfully
Your Excellency
Your Obt Servt

Buren Ref. & M. E.
Pine Bluff Ark
October 27 1864

Maj. Pay Eng
Chief E. O. Buren Ref. & M. E.
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith my report of Pierce and Articles for examination at your office. Please pay the amounts due at your earliest convenience

I am Sir
Very respectfully
Your Ob't Servt
[illegible]
Lieut & Asst. R. & M. Stores

Benton R.R. & M.L.
Pine Bluff Ark
October 27th 1869

Maj Geo. Page Engr
Supt of B.O.B.R.R.
Little Rock Ark

Sir

I have the honor to transmit for payment: one Set of Vouchers Oct 12, for Lumber and other material necessary to build the additional work as far as it is completed. The last balance of Hardware and Lumber purchased and delivered on the ground, I shall have to keep myself on part due for want to refuse to take it back, and the Post Quartermaster says he can not use any of the Lumber. it not being the right length. There will be enough of the Lumber left for to ship the 20 000 feet to Duty Station as ordered. The Steamer Gleaner could not take it. and I shall try to ship it on the Pike on Thursday four days. Immediately Maj Watson Please inform me at your earliest convenience as to what the letter is to be made of the Blacksmith Building I have never yet taken it upon

Orig

Corp. property returned
I am Sir
Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt.
L. Chevalier
Lieut & Agent B. R. Refs

P. R. O. & A. L.

Pine Bluff Ark Oct 29th 63

Lieut John G. Lovett
A A A G. P. R. O. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark

Lieutenant:

I have the honor to respectfully invite your attention to the case of Mr Henry A De Wolf now on duty as clerk in this office at a salary of thirty dollars per month. He holds a regular appointment as clerk in the Quarter Mr Dept dated April 1st 1863, he was directed in S O No 32 C. S. to proceed to Pine Bluff Ark and report to Brevet Lt Col Hough Agent for duty as clerk in this office at a salary of $30 per mo. At the time this order was received Mr De Wolf was acting Hospital Steward in addition to his other duties the duties were then raging and he requested in a letter dated September 13th 1863 that he be permitted to delay reporting to Bvt Lt Col Hough

...until the services of a competent steward
can be secured from St Louis, who had
been telegraphed for. Special Orders No. 43
C. S. was subsequently issued working S.O.
No 97. The new Hospital Steward arrived
soon thereafter which deprives Pvt De Wolf
of the position and his pay is now reduced
to the small sum of thirty dollars per mo.
this is evidently not sufficient to support
himself and his family he is a competent
faithful and industrious man has lost a leg in
battle and is otherwise injured by wounds
received in action incapacitating him for
duties where much activity is required, during
the season of pestilence doctors bills are so
high. Stewards are indispensable, regardless
of self he is called night and day to relieve the
suffering of those afflicted and as duty in the
office he has given general satisfaction
Permit me to recommend him to your
favorable consideration and to request that
he may be assigned to a station in or near
the Crescent where his pathology can be in-

to one hundred dollars per month

I am Lieutenant

Very respectfully
Your Obt Svt
J Chevallier
Lieut & Agt C.S.U.S.A.

Bluffton R. F & A.S.
Dim Bluff Ark Oct 31st 1867

Henry Rogers Esqr
A.A.Q.M. U.S.A. Ft. A.S.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir

In your letter of the 21st inst you direct that I should forward 200 feet of lumber to Maj. Watson at Helena and that you would move the same to him. if so then you will please move but 10.000 feet to me of the 12000 feet purchased for repairs on boats all of which cannot be expended and for which vouchers have been sent you -

I am sir.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Perrault
Issuing Agent U.S.R.F & A.S.

Bureau R.F.M.A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark Oct 7th 1865

Lt. Wells Brodhead Asst. Supt.
Caldwell Plantation.

Sir

You will come to this office without delay and sign vouchers for balance of bounty due you. and to receive further instructions in the case.

Respectfully

Chief Agent B.R.F.M.A.L.

Bureau R. F. & P. R. R.
Rock Island, [illegible] 1865

John Pittman Esq
Pattonsburg.

You will please call at this office at your earliest convenience and bring with you accounts against the squad of which Smith Patton, Evans, is foreman. You will have them properly classified and arranged for the scrutiny of this office. You will also cause the foreman of the squad to come with you.

I am Sir
Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
L. Pierce
Trans'l Agt - B. R. F. R. R.

Bureau R. F. & L.
Office Bluff Str. Nov 1st 1867

Henry Page Esq
Ft Smith
Little Rock Ark.

Sir

I am under in
debt of Statony. the Sec'ty recently
instructed and desired to me has not for
a remed. neither have I received the Returns
of School furniture & desired on Same date
of Sailing

I Am Sir
Very respectfully
Your Ob't Serv't
Lt. Smith
Sup't Agency B. R. F. & L.

Scarborough 10th Feb 1815
Pall Mall Coffee House

Wm. M. Bathie Esq
Secretary of Chancellor
Lord High Steward

Sir

I have the honor to request that you furnish me with a plan for the arranging of the new seats and clerks at the Lords House: the Remainder of Furniture has not yet come.

I am Sir.

Your most humble
Servant
W. Bathie
Lords Agent Carpenter

Bureau R. F. & L.
Pine Bluff Ark Nov 1st 1865

Lieut Jno C. Bennett
A. A. A. G. B. R. F. & L.
Little Rock Ark.

Lieutenant.

I have the honor to transmit herewith Report of Assessments and Changes in Abandoned Lands for the month of October 1865.

I am Lieutenant.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
[redacted]
Lieut & Agent B. R. F. & L.

Bureau R. F. & L.
Post Bluff Ark. Nov 1st 1867

Wm. M. Colby Esq.
Supt Educ. for B.R.F.&L.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to transmit herewith Monthly School Report for the month of October 1867. This is the only School reported in my district.

I am Sir,
Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
O. Kinsley
Lieut & Asst Com B.R.F.&L.

Camp near Helena Ark.
July 4th 1863

Lieut Col C Bennett.
A. A. A. G. 13. A. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark.

Lieutenant.

I have the honor to transmit herewith for the approval of the Asst Commissioner one set of vouchers for actual expenses incurred while traveling under S. O. No 6. C. S.

The party of five witnesses Maj. P. E. Giles. H. G. Cameron Lillis Robinson, Colonel, Asa Peterson (Colonel, and the Quartermaster Colonel) were summoned by me in pursuance to the above mentioned order on the 18th day of May 1863. and started to come with me to Duvalls Bluff to Little Rock. The undersigned was entirely out of funds and after furnishing transportation I found that I had also to disburse other necessary expenses or fail in accomplishing the object aimed at. Maj to have the witnesses at Little Rock by the 23d of May as

Especially directed - In my report of the 28th
of May I stated that for the transportation heirs
vouchers could be given and requested to be in-
structed as to the vouchers necessary to be made
out to reimburse me and to pay the witnesses for
the time they were necessarily away from home. I
was informed in your communication of the 29th
of May that the matter had been referred to Brt
Maj Genl E.O.C. Ord Comdg 4th Military District &
directed to preserve a memorandum of the amount
paid out for future action. I am now directed
by the Asst Commissioner to forward my accounts
together with a statement in full. I beg leave
to submit the following. viz -

May 19th To dinner while en route to Montevello for
J.S. Sikes and H.G. Cameron. each $2,00 $2,00
(The colored people had a lunch along)
May 20th Hotel Bill at Montevello Maj. J.S. Sikes.
and H.G. Cameron. Supper. Lodging & breakfast each $6,00 6,00
Mrs Carpenter. Willis Robinson & Nina Jackson, Colrd,
Supper. Lodging & breakfast at a private house. each $3. $3,00
Dinner for the party that day. each $2. $6,00
May 21st Supper. Lodging & breakfast at
W.S. Morton's for the party
(Note) [illegible]

	Brought forward.	$ 0.50
	Drivings for mounted escort and party	6.00
May 22.	Hotel Bill at Iron Bluff Ky. J.S. Files and H.G. Cameron. each $ 7.00	14.00
	Bill for Mr Carpenter. Ellis Robinson & Wm Jackson who staid at a private house. each $ 5.00	15.00
	Advances made to J.S. Files and H.G. Cameron to defray expenses home. each $ 6.00	12.00
	Subsistence of Animals between Post	10.00
	Total	$ 87.61

May 16th My private expenses is as follows Ky

	Bill at Mr Enos Cuppers lodging & breakfast	$ 2.00
May 17.	Dinner at Monticello	1.00
May 19.	Hotel Bill at Hamburg	8.00
	Dinner while enroute to Monticello	1.00
May 20th	Hotel Bill at Monticello	3.00
	Dinner enroute to Iron Bluff	1.00

After dinner I left the party in charge of Sergt Bess & two soldiers and proceed on to Iron Bluff to secure other witnesses. took one of the soldiers with me.

May 21st Paid Mr Farrington for Supper, lodging & breakfast for self & one soldier who was sick $ 6.00. Dinner for two $ 2.00 — 8.00

Dinner and brandy for use of sick soldier — 2.00

Forwd $ 39.00

By Mrs bill at Pine Bluff ran on on the ferry
boat and consequently the above is all extra
expense - I have not embodied the same in the
amount charged on the cash vouchers and
only ask to be reimbursed for the amount paid
out for ferriage subsistence of witnesses and ambulance
Should there be any further explanation
necessary please notify me at your convenience -
I am Lieutenant.

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
[signature]
Insp & Agent T.S.S. 87th O.V.I.

Bureau R. F. & A. S.
Pine Bluff Ark Oct 18th 1867

Henry Page Esq
A. A. G. B. R. F. & A. S.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir.

In my communication of the 29th Ult I stated that I would ship the 2000 feet of Lumber to Major Watson at Helena in the Steamer Pujaro - The boat is now here but cannot take the Lumber on the account of low water and it will be impossible to ship it till the river rises -

I am Sir.

Very respectfully
Your Ob't Servt
A. Sweitzer
Lieut. & Agent B. R. F. & A. S.

Bureau R. Frdmn
Mrs Bluffs Ark
Nov 1st 1865

Henry Pages Esq
A. Asst Q.M. B.R.F.&A.L.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith Vouchers in duplicate for wood and forage. Also receipts signed for the same - Please remit the amount at your earliest convenience -

I am Sir
Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
S. Meisselter
Supt Agent B.R.F.&A.L.

Bureau R. of A. C.,
Fort Bluff Ark. Sept 30th 1867

Lieut Fred Bennett,
A. A. A. G. B. R. F. & C.
Little Rock Ark,

Lieutenant.

I have the honor to submit the following report for the month ending August 31st 1867 in compliance with Circular No 15. C. B. (Central Bureau No 16 C. B. Head Quarters 4th Mil. District,

On the 2nd inst I visited the plantation of W. H. Britton known as the Warren Place, where I talked with the freedmen. & found them tolerably well informed as to their newly acquired rights and future requirements - Wm Britton being a thoroughly loyal and true man exerts a good influence over them. numerous questions asked me were explained to the best of my ability. very little desire for office being manifested among Wm Britton's Employees and they unanimously purpose going by his instructions when the time comes for them to vote. They have all registered. do not attend any of the barbecues or other political meetings but quietly pursue their Vocation - My visit had a tendency to

strengthen their confidence in their employer who I have reason to believe will properly guide them so as to carefully preserve the liberties so piously bestowed by a magnanimous government. Mr Britton is not a candidate for office.

I next visited the place worked by Mr Solomon Franklin who employs near two hundred and fifty freedmen and cultivates eighteen hundred acres of land. He has been a captain in the rebel army. Is not in sympathy with the Congressional plan of reconstruction and takes no active part in the political movements of the day. I found the freedmen ill informed leading men of both the republican and conservative parties here than before me, a feeling of dread pervaded the minds of the most intelligent, often less capable of weaving influence manifested a spirit of indifference - I had each of the foremen told me his notion of freedom, registration and voting, but few understood matters and things correctly. They labored under the impression that government designed throwing additional burdens upon them and that by registering each would thereby give his consent. I explained

to them fully the nature of the additional responsibility and informed them that they would also be endowed with additional privileges, that registration was a privilege which only those who were not disqualified under the Act of Congress, would be granted the right to have a voice in the election of candidates for office and the future government of the country - I explained to them the law on elections, cautioned them against bribery and drunkenness at the polls, informed them of the probable consequences should they make a mistake in the selection of candidates, pointed out to them the great selfishness of the loyal masses to permanently secure their rights and future success, and requested them to look well to the faithful performance of all the duties devolving upon them as citizens whether public or private - The freedmen were much gratified and appreciated the instructions received. They have all registered, many have since joined the Union League or Friendship of the Republic, they are becoming quite enthusiastic and are getting rather over-jealous in attending barbecues and other political meetings held from time to time throughout the County to the detriment of

their crops -

On the Jenks Brown plantation the freedmen were almost entirely ignorant concerning the important changes in their political status. Their employer not being in favor of enlarging their privileges, takes no pains to instruct them properly. I am confident that they were being misled but could not prevail upon them to make any disclosures - On this, the Scull & Stevens the Ralston and other neighboring plantations a Union League is being organized. The freedmen have all registered and considerable of their time is being spent in attending political gatherings. On the Wm H. Jenkins place I found the freedmen as well informed as could be expected. He was a Captain in our army during the war -

I have embraced every opportunity to impart instruction to freedmen on the subject of reconstruction, and am informed by the Board of Registers that registration in this county is a success -

In addition to the list of names mentioned I have also visited the plantation of Robt Brown, Dr. Alex Brown and

Of Parents, at all of said Schools the freedmen have had but little opportunity to gain information, and the instruction imparted was much needed -

I have visited our Schools & Entertainments in all during the month. Sickness and pressure of business at the office prevented me from visiting more -

The above is respectfully submitted.

O. Ciswell
Lieut & Asst A.A.G. 4th D.

[illegible]

Mr. Lyle Blum having informed
me of his not your being able to comply
with so much of your Contract as
pertains to the Cleaning of the cotton
Gins, I do not feel disposed to
[illegible] any longer of much
delay, being caused by your Notifying me
that you will not attend to it therefore
under the circumstances you will not attend
with Mr. Blum's direction, only have left
to conform to the rules of Mr. Blum
and so return Check to me

Respectfully
Lewis Lewis

Bureau R. Fd & L
Pine Bluff Ark
Nov 15th 1867

Isaac Orr Esq
Civ.

Complaint having been made by one Rimrod and others that you are about to ship the principal part of the Crop raised by them on the Gould & Bertrand plantation, and that they cannot obtain a satisfactory settlement from you, it is therefore ordered that the entire Crop raised by them remain on the plantation until a settlement is had between the parties interested - You will without delay arrange your accounts and bring them to this office in person at 9 o. clock P. M. on Friday the 8th day of November inst. for adjustment - Grimrod and his party will be here - & direct Complainer with this order is expected -

Very Respectfully
O. Brewster
Asst Supt Refugees &c

Bureau R. F. & L.
Port Bluff Texas
June 2nd 1867.

C. Stoddard Jr Esq
Sir

Enclosed please find Letter addressed to Isaac Orr Esq. Own being the agent of Wm Orr I should hold you responsible that the cotton is not shipped till a settlement is made with the hands as per instructions of Wm Orr.

Very respectfully
S. Ciscoria
Asst Supt Agent

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Port Bluff Ark Sept 1st 1865

Lieut Jno. B. Bennett.
A. A. A. G. B. R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark.

Lieutenant.

In compliance with instructions contained in Circular No. 8. Gen Orders etc. Head Quarters 4th Sub District, I have the honor to report that I have visited the Plantations of Wm Geo Watkins, Major Baker, Grant Allen, Robert Johnson, Dr. H. Jenkins, and the Norris place, on each of which there are from thirty to one hundred and fifty hands employed. The foremen on these places have been attending at barbecues and other political meetings, were belong to the Union League and are totally ill informed, yet I found many others with wrong ideas thinking that when they registered they had voted, others are under the impression that northern men are here simply to swindle them, and that the order Freedom is their best friend after all. Disfranchised rebels are constantly poisoning their minds and make every effort to destroy the confidence negroes have heretofore followed in loyal men. A great deal of misunderstanding exists among them in consequence of the conduct and re-

sult of unscrupulous men, the most

faires of the Conservative party) to create discord by defaming loyal men by contrasting the present unpardonable conduct of some of the negroes who had kind and indulgent masters with their former circumstances (when they were provided with the necessaries of life and had not a thought for the morrow) thereby enlisting their sympathies and securing their aid in decrying others: I find it a very difficult task to remove erroneous impressions without becoming personal or openly advocating party politics -

I must call Trips to Arkansas County during the month in accordance to several instructions received from your Office. My health being poor during the entire month I was unable to attend to any business during part of the month -

Lieutenants for Officers commanders of both parties are now canvassing the County. Holding political meetings over the principal plantations much to the annoyance of the planters - the negroes enjoy it and much enthusiasm is displayed by them -

The above is respectfully submitted -

J. Gerrits

Lieut. Asst. Supt. B.R.F. & L.

Bureau R. Fds &c.,
Vicksburg Miss. Sept. 1st 1865

Lieut Inspt Kenner,
A. A. A. G. B. R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark.

Lieutenant.

I have the honor to transmit herewith my special reports for August and September as required under Circular Orders Nos 15. Hd Quarters 4th Sub Districts,

I beg leave to state that I made special mention in my narrative reports for Aug and Sept as to the plantations visited during those months and conclusions that I have complied with the spirit of that Circular.

I am Lieutenant.

Very respectfully.
Your Obt Servt
S. Steinecke
Lieut & Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau of R. F. & A. L.
Vicksburg Miss. Nov 6th 1865.

To the Freedmen on the plantations
and employ of Louis Bogy Sr.

Be it known that complaint has been
made to this office that some of the friends
of Phebe Ursula (Sterasich) are contemplating
harm to Mr. C. J. Pickett Senior the father of
Andrew J. Pickett Jr. now residing in the Bogy
neighborhood: the Agent of Bureau Refugees Freedmen
and Abandoned Lands for Jefferson County Ark
hereby caution all persons to abstain from
violence, and to quietly pursue their avocation, and
by their manner and conversation assure all
parties of their good intentions,

Mr Andrew J. Pickett is fully entitled to the
protection of the authorities. And the friends of Phebe
Ursula are hereby commanded to make every effort
to resist all manifestations on the part of the false friends.
And they will be held responsible for any improper conduct on their part.

C. Bissell
Agent Bureau Refugees &c.

Bureau of R. F. & A.
Fort Bluff Ark.
Nov 6th 1865

To the freedmen on the
Lesh plantation Jefferson Co Ark,

You are hereby directed not to remove
any corn from said plantation till you ha[ve]
permission from this office. A full compliance
with this order will be expected from each
and every freedman upon said plantation. And
any one violating the same will be severely dealt
with by the Agent of this Bureau.

O. Gilbert
Lieut Asst Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.,
Natchez Bluff Adams Co. Miss. 1865

Frank Porter Esq
Asst. Comm. Miss. & Eastern Dist.
Jefferson Co. Miss.

Sir.

Isaac Anderson and other freedmen state that they have been picking Cotton for you at 7½ ℔ hundred. And that Major Hall has forbidden you paying the freedmen for their labor on the ground that they are in debt to him for supplies furnished them during the year while working his plantation - If these statements are true you will please pay the freedmen the amount earned by them & Major Hall cannot stop their pay. that can only be done by an order from this office -

Respectfully
O. Brownlee
Lieut Col & A.A.G.

S. L. S. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark Nov. 7/69

Capt. Pope Esq
Superintendent Island Place
Jefferson Co. Ark.

Sir:

The representation
made by Isaac Herman (col'd) & others having
been found to be not entirely correct it
is ordered that you retain the wages earned
by them and those hereafter earned until further
notice from this office

S. Geisreiter
Supt Ag'l & Ab. Affairs

Bureau R. F. & L.
Pine Bluff Arkansas

Lieut Jno C. Brown
A.A.A.G. B.R.F. & L.
Little Rock Ark.

Lieutenant.

I have the honor to submit the following as my narrative report for the month ending Oct 31st 1865.

During the month of this month I have visited the following named Schools and Churches connected with the Freedmen: On the 1st day of the month the freedmen have erected additional comfortable school houses, it is principally through their exertions, without any assistance on their part. On the Bayou Plantation adjoining mine, Miss Croft was engaged by Benjamin Ringgold one of the first to engage in the work. On the Oakland Plantation the former has been greatly reduced by sickness and death from cholera, the crops are neglected and the place will not pay expenses. Some of the freedmen is attributable to mismanagement. On the Austin place I found much dissatisfaction among the freedmen caused by a white man named Thomas who runs

to keep off some of the Lands. he succeeded in having five men away and finally got a negro to assist him in stealing a mule on which he left. it was understood between them that the negro Richard Watson was to steal another mule on which to follow this Bradley. he did not succeed in catching one. was arrested by Jno O. Kelly a Justice of the Peace on suspicion of being in connivance with Bradley and confessed the whole. he was turned over to Brt Major Louis J Morris Capt 28th Infantry Commanding Post to be dealt with under General Orders No 9 Head Quarters 4th Military District- dated Augt 8th 1867

On the Ambrose place the freedmen have fared poorly this year. the most of them came from Georgia late last fall. And during the last season many took sick. the cholera made its appearance among them causing the death of about fifteen. their crop has necessarily been much neglected and Beyond Bare Subsistence will be barely in the enterprise.

I also visited several places South west of Pine Bluff. there are but few freedmen in that section of my district and the farms are principally small. I have visited some plantations during the month: have also been to Little Rock and back and the citizens treated

on official duty is one two hundred miles.

Affairs on the R.F.& Hospital have been conducted in accordance with instructions from the Chief Bureau R. F. & L. Little Rock Ark Oct 16th 1867. The vouchers for purchase of Lumber and other material have not yet been paid. I am informed that the Hospital will be discontinued by the 1st of November and am directed to regulate the admission of patients and other business pertaining to the Hospital with a view to that event. This is being done. I have made a report to Genl Regr R. F. & L. D.C. concerning the condition of the building. Much suffering will unavoidably result in consequence of this measure. As the Civil authorities are not disposed to do any more for their poor than they are compelled to. it is true that there is but little money in the treasury, yet I am satisfied that more could have been done by the County Court than has been.

Some of the most intelligent and enterprising of the freedmen have during this year and the year previous allowed themselves to engage too largely in planting. Light crops and low prices has caused their means to fall far below that of their indebtedness. some are from five hundred to two thousand dollars in debt. and upon final settlement at the close

of this year I fear that many will be most grievously disappointed at the result. Many planters give it as their opinion that nine out of every ten of the freedmen employed will come out in debt.

The system of freedmen working for a share of the crop is becoming very unpopular. I am informed that next year most of the planters purpose hiring hands at stipulated wages payable at stated periods, a portion of the same to be retained till the close of the year or the expiration of the contract. This latter plan suits with my approbation and I would recommend its adoption generally.

Some of the planters are constantly applying to this office for protection against their freedmen and U.S. several cases are now pending. I find that quite a number of mortgages have been given by freedmen to merchants and much litigation will necessarily be the result. Especially where both the planter and the merchant have furnished necessary supplies, but neither the rented quantity inquired and the crop is not sufficient to pay both accounts.

The Colored Troops in this place will soon be ready for use. I am waiting to get the balance of the men sent from Little Rock,

I cannot put up any until I have all the facts. The house is well built. is very comfortable and an ornament to the city of this Bluff.

Mrs Julia Ream. Major Ralston. Major Davis and other large landholders have spoken to me about having a school house for freedmen on their plantations. as yet they have no school houses built but the foreman purpose building a suitable house on each of those places anon. they will probably not be able to raise the means where with to buy necessary hardware and lumber to complete the same. I have directed them to cause the buildings to be put up without unnecessary delay and if at all possible to complete them without additional help and that whenever the school houses were ready, and suitable places provided for the teachers and their pay secured by a tax on the crop or otherwise there would be no difficulty in obtaining the services of competent teachers -

Numerous complaints of a trivial nature are constantly being adjusted. A great deal of time & energy of his hours is being consumed in hearing the long and tedious statements of both parties and

their witnesses. I am compelled to work nights in order to comply the more one attend to other business pertaining to the office. it is believed that the business will increase during the next two months and that great vigilance will be necessary to secure to the freedmen their just dues.

There is great complaint being made by planters throughout the county in regard to freedmen killing their cattle and hogs. some of the planters are becoming much discouraged and state that they will have to give up planting entirely. for their property is not secure and their lives in imminent peril should they undertake to vigorously prosecute the parties implicated. some of the freedmen have been apprehended and held to answer for the crimes committed but the larger portion of them remain unpunished. The civil authorities seem to be doing all they can to remedy the evil but with poor success. and I greatly fear that serious trouble will be the result.

A negro named Phillis while was killed in an altercation near the Bogy plantation about twelve miles from this place by a white man named Andrew

G. Bickett who was pursued but made his escape to parts unknown. Necessary legal proceedings have been instituted and every effort will be made to secure his arrest.

I am Lieutenant.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt

A. Geisweiler
Lieut Ord Dept U.S.A. Ft Ark

Bureau R. F & L.
Pine Bluff Arkansas Dec 1865

To Richard Heim and others freedmen
on the Enos Taylor plantation
Jefferson Co Arkansas.

Whereas C Stoddard &
Co have filed a statement in this office that
you are selling and disposing of the corn
raised on said plantation Contrary to the
stipulations of your Contract with said
Stoddard & Co. Therefore it is ordered by the
Agent of this Bureau that all corn hence
with products raised by you under the
Contract aforesaid shall be placed in charge
of said Stoddard & Co and no part of the same
disposed of till so ordered by this office. Any
one maintaining this order will be severely dealt
with by the Agent of this Bureau.

O. Brunson
Sub Asst Com R F & L.

Bureau R. F. & L.
Port Gibson Miss
Nov 11th 1865

Lamb & Johnson Esq.
Agt for Chester B. Ashley.
Jefferson Co Ark.

Sir.

It having been reported in this office that one Richard Hamilton and other freedmen on his Quarter in the employ of C. Stoddard Esq. have been selling Hay fodder &c raised on the Rural Retreat plantation to you - It is therefore ordered by the Agent of this Bureau that you retain all Monies in your hands due for said products till otherwise ordered by the Agent of this Bureau. And you will be held responsible for the same

Respectfully
Your Obt Servt

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Port Bluff Ark
Nov 11th 1867

Messrs C. Trueland Jr & Co
Agents of Isaac Orr,
Jefferson Co. Ark,

Sirs,

Permission is hereby granted for you to sell or dispose of thirty bales of cotton raised by the freedmen who are under contract with said Orr. The balance of the cotton and all of the corn raised by said freedmen will remain on the plantation till full settlement and payment is made

Respectfully -

S. Geisreiter
Frdmn's Agent Bureau R. F. & A. L.

Freedmen R. Fd. & A. C.
Bur. Bluff Unit
Aug 18 1866

Mrs Ann E. Adams,
Jefferson Co. Ark,
Madam.

The Agent of this Bureau having been informed that you have failed to pay all the freedmen who were in your employ during the year 1865 in accordance with your contract with them. It is therefore ordered that no cotton will be sold or removed from your plantation till full payment is made to all of said freedmen: And an endorsement of each payment will be their receipt in full properly witnessed.

S. Geisreiter
Lieut & Asst A. A. G. 7th D.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Dists Bluff Ark
Nov 13th 1865

Henry Page Esq
Sup't B.C.R.F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of checks No 1074 and 1076 on Merchants National Bank of Little Rock in payment of vouchers of Lt Parr and Smith & Dennis, one for $91.85 and the other for $41.50.

I am Sir.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt.

Thos Goodrich
Supt B.C.R.F. & A. L.

Ottawa 21st 1845

Dear Bousfield

I.R. Wilson Esq
Dear Bousfield

Sir

Have only just been informed to this effect immediately, in order that a settlement may be made between you and Mrs. Eliza Johnson Clerk for errors omitted during the present year.

Respectfully,

S. Sicotte
Secretary Agent B.N. Prov.

Bureau R. F. & L.
Rio Bluff Ark. June 5th 1865

To whom it may concern.

Be it known that permission is hereby granted to G. Stevens Jr. to ship sixty bales of cotton from the Plantation of Smith & Wiley of the assessment of this contract on file in this office.

O. Brewster
Supt. of Bureau R. F. & L.

Bureau R. Frd.s,
Pine Bluff Ark.
Nov 13th 1865.

Duella Cole. Esq
On Holmes plantation
Jefferson Co Ark.

Sir.

Complaint having been made to this office by Howard Holmes, Major Enoch Knight and Morris Henderson freedmen who have been in your employ during the present year that you refuse to pay them for their labor as per verbal agreement. In view of these statements I have this day seized all the Cotton, Corn and other products raised and now remaining on the plantation of Dr L. Holmes in Jefferson Co. Ark. till full payment is made to all of the freedmen employed in cultivating said crops, and all persons are forbidden selling, removing or disposing of any portion of said crop till authority to do so is obtained from this office. All persons interested are directed to appear at this office on Tuesday the 19th inst at 2. o. clock P. M. with the necessary books and accounts to effect a proper settlement.

O. Gerhardt
Lieut & Agent A. B. R. F & A. L.

Bureau R. F. & A.L.
Miss Bluff Ark.
Nov 18th 1865

Dr L Holmes.
Jefferson Co. Ark,

Sir.

You are hereby notified that I have this day seized all the cotton, Corn and other products now remaining on your plantation to secure the payment of the freedmen employed on cultivating the same. and you are directed to take charge of all of said crops and to see that none of it is removed till the proper authority is obtained from this office. and you will be held strictly accountable for the enforcement of this order.

Respectfully
Lewis Tillson
Asst Supt B.R. F. & A.L.

Bureau R. of F. & A. L.
Post Office Stark
Miss Feb 15th 1867

Lieut. Col. J. Mallet A.
Asst. Commissioner.
Natchez Miss.

Sir,

Certain freedmen in your employ have entered complaint in this office that a certain portion of the crop raised by them, is in charge of being withheld of their full payment is due them for their labor - In view of these statements it is ordered that no portion of the cotton, corn or other products raised by the freedmen on the above plantation be sold, removed or disposed of till such time as full payment is made to all of the freedmen employed in raising said crop, and proof of payment will be their receipt in full duly witnessed.

J. Geisreiter
Lieut. & Asst. Supt. B.R.F. & A.L.

J. Bureau R. F. & A. Bv
Vicksburg Miss. Oct. 16th 1866.

John Pittman Esq.
Patton Plantation.
Jefferson Co. Miss.

Sir,

You having failed to comply with my request of the 14th inst. you are hereby commanded to appear at this office on Wednesday the 24th day of Oct. 1866. at 10. o'clock A. M. with all the books and papers pertaining to the accounts of the freedmen in your employ. You are also commanded not to sell, remove or dispose of any portion of the crops raised by said freedmen till authority to do so is obtained from this office. Failing to comply with this order will subject you to arrest and trial by Military Commission.

S. Thurston
Supt. Asst. Com. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. F. & L.'s,
Pine Bluff Ark,
Nov 16th 1864

Messrs Ward & Hughes.
Pine Bluff Ark,

This office having been informed that you have disobeyed Verbal instructions received from the Agent of this Bureau, by removing a quantity of Cotton raised by Daniel Marshal, freedman, on the Milky Hill plantation Jefferson Co. Ark-

You are hereby commanded not to remove any portion of the Cotton, Corn, or other products raised by said Marshal now remaining on the above named plantation, till authority to do so is obtained from this Office

D. S. Greenleaf
Lieut Asst Supt B.R.F. & L.

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Bureau R. F'm'd's.
Pine Bluff Ark
Nov 18th 1867.

M. G. Dr Wolf Esq
South Bend Ark

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith Vouchers for Services rendered as Clerk B. R. F'm'd's. for the month of October 1867

I am Sir
Very respectfully
Your obt Servt

O. Winter
Asst'd Agent B. R. F'm'd's

Fort Pine Bluff Ark Aug 16th 63

Simon Hackett
Sir.

You order of the 16th inst. forbidding the
removal of any cotton or other property
by the Freedmen in your employ
until full settlement is made
is duly received and
I would ask you to inform me to
whom the amount of Two
hundred Bales of cotton belonging to
him at Fort Pine Bluff Ark should
be delivered and if to my order
at any time the balance to remain in
your office until settlement

Very Respectfully
Your Obdt Servt
L. Wingate
Lieut & Asst Adjt Gen

Bureau R. F'd & A.
Port Gibson Sub
Dist No. 1867

Prof. Mr Craig Esq
Ch. Freed'n Plantation.
Jefferson Co. Miss,

Sir,

Complaint having been made to this office that you are shipping and disposing of the cotton raised by the freedmen on the above named plantation before the same has been ginned - It is therefore ordered that no more cotton (ginned or seed cotton now on your bank) corn or other products raised by the freedmen on said plantation be sold. removed or disposed of till authority to do so is obtained from this office. A strict compliance with this order will be expected.

S. Ferriter
Asst'd Supt B.R. F'd & A.

Bureau R. I. & A. S.,
Pine Bluff Ark.,
Nov 22. 1869

Henry Boyer Esq
Supt Dist 13. R. F. & A. S.
Little Rock Ark,

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith Receipts for Bureau stores as per Invoice just received. I also return Invoices previously sent for a portion of the same stores. Please return the Receipts you now have for the same stores ~~formerly~~ heretofore sent. &c.

Yours &c.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Meisenheimer
Asst Supt Dist 13. R. F. & A. S.

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Nov 22. 1867.

To all whom it may concern.

Notice is hereby given, that in accordance with Circular No 9 current Series Hd Quarters Asst Commissr Offrs Little Rock Ark. and Paragraph 10 Special Orders No 9 current Series Head Quarters 4th Military District. I have seized forty seven (47) bales of cotton now lying at the gin house on the Woodstock plantation one mile east of Pine Bluff Ark to satisfy a judgment in favor of Anderson Smith Colored, against L. R. Cockrill for $83.75 and interest on the same.

All persons are forbidden selling removing or disposing of any portion of said cotton till the above judgment is fully satisfied and paid. and the cotton released by the Agent of this Bureau.

S. Geisreiter
Lieut & Agent B. R. F & A. L.

The above was not served

Bureau R. and F. L.
Fort Bluff Arkansas [illegible]

[illegible] J.P.
Helena Ark.

Sir.

Our steamer Rumsey and
having been arrested, tried and ordered to jail
by you on a charge of "Assault and battery"
of which he claims to be innocent.

I would respectfully request that the
papers in the case be sent to this office without
delay for investigation in full. The party will
attend committal till further orders.

How will cause the witnesses to appear
in person at this office.

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
[illegible]
Asst Supt Bureau R. and F. L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Fort Pickett, Black & Nott. Va.
July 24th 1866

Alfred Shewington Esq.
Jefferson Co. Ark.

Sir,

This office having been informed that certain freedmen employed by you during the year 1865 have not been settled with and that you are still indebted to them for such services.

In accordance with Circular No 9 Head Qrs of this Commissioner [illegible] and paragraph III Circular No 3 Assistant Commissioner State of Arkansas Little Rock Ark. you are hereby ordered not to remove any portion of the crop now remaining on your plantation till said indebtedness has been fully met, and authority to remove the same is obtained from this office.

In case of dispute between you and the freedmen: the matter in dispute will be referred to three referees, one of whom will be selected by the employer, one by the freedmen: and the third by the other two, and if they fail to select the third, then by the Agent of this Bureau.

The records and decision of these referees will be submitted to the Agent of this Bureau for his inspection.

S. Ewing
Lieut Colonel U. S. A. A. A. G.

Pine Bluff Ark. Nov 26th 1877

Lt. Gen. C. Marshall Esq
Fort Smith Ark.

Sir

This office having been informed that certain grievances exist by your cleaning the ground where our Agency was located, and that grievances still exist due to them for such services

You are hereby with directed to refer to Lt. Genl. Sheridan Chief Quartermaster Military Division of the Missouri Chicago Ill. and to request that you may be allowed to remain in charge of the Agency buildings until your information till such time as has been finally settled, and authority to remove the stores is otherwise received from that Bureau

In case of a dispute between you and the freedmen, the matter in dispute will be referred by their respective one of whom will be selected by the Employer, one by the freedmen, and the third by the other two, and if they fail to select the third, then by the Agent of this Bureau

The award and decision of these referees will be submitted to the Agent of this Bureau for his information

S. Gerstle
Asst Agent B. R. Ark.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.,
Pine Bluff Ark. Jun 28 1867

Rufus Haynes Esq
Jefferson Co. Ark.

Sir,

I have the honor to invite your attention to the case of Henry Brown (Freed)

I am informed that Dr Simmons has sued him for fifteen dollars on a doctors bill and you are duly notified will it be due until the 1st day of July next. This fact can be proven by Thomas Tolbert and Elias Drayton. There is a written contract to that effect witnessed by John Adkins Esq.

Mary Ann Helena, Col'd. has a claim against Brown for supplies furnished that is now due and must be paid at once by him - If Dr Simmons does not get a judgment after trial you will please assist her in collecting the account

herewith enclosed -

I am Sir,

Your respectfully

Obedient Servt

J. Winsler

Lieut 1st Regt 2d. Batt.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark. Nov 23. 1867

Thos. McGregor Esq.
Jefferson Co. Ark.

Sir.

This office having been informed that certain freedmen employed by you during the year 1866. have not been settled with, and that you are still indebted to them for such services.

In accordance with Circular No 14. Assistant Comm's Office Little Rock Ark. and paragraph III General Orders No 19. Assist Comm's Mo'd Limits 4th Military District. you are hereby ordered not to remove any portion of the crop now remaining on your plantation till such settlement has been fully made. and authority to remove the same is obtained from this Bureau.

In case of dispute between you and the freedmen the matter in dispute will be referred by three officers. one of whom will be selected by the employer. one by the freedmen. and the third by the other two. and if they fail to select the third. then by the Agent of this Bureau.

The records and decision of this officers will be submitted to the Agent of this Bureau for his inspection.

O. Brewster
Sub Ass't Comm'r

Sir:

Camp near R. R. 2 M. E.
Pine Bluff Ark
Nov 30th 1863

Lieut Jno. A. Barnett.
A. A. A. G. 3d Div. 7th A.C.
Little Rock Ark.

Lieutenant

I have the honor to represent that in the township of Dallas in this county, there is at present but one justice of the peace, Wm Jarnett Esq (the other justice) having died of Typhoid fever - Wm. L. R. Wallace the present justice of the peace is a man of low cunning and deep suspicions - He is loved in his professions of loyalty and philanthropy, yet ever ready to take advantage of the law to impose upon freedmen - He is a slaveholder rather than a sympathizer of the poor - His entire devotion of the citizens in his township, low in their confidence - His

his integrity. and I am satisfied that he is not acting in good faith towards the government.

I would respectfully recommend that Wm J. Mansur Esq. be appointed a Justice of the Peace for Bolivar township to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Wm Nasby -

Wm Mansur is highly recommended to me as being a gentleman of undoubted loyalty, and will qualify for the position. He is an old citizen of the county and it is believed will make a good officer.

I am Lieutenant.

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
S Miller
Lieut 103rd O.V.I.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Nov 25th 1868

To all whom it may concern.

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Circular No 17 Current Series Asst Commissioners office Little Rock Ark, and paragraph III Rules & Regulations No 19 Current Series Head Quarters 7th Military District I have this day seized all the cotton, Corn, and other products raised and now remaining on the Woodstock plantation one mile east of Pine Bluff Jefferson Co. Ark. to satisfy a judgement in favor of Anderson Smith (Colored) obtained before the Sheriff for $83.75 and interest and costs.

All persons are forbidden removing or disposing of any portion of said crop till the above judgement is fully satisfied and paid and the crop released by authority of this Bureau.

O. Brisselden
Supt Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. E & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Nov 20th 1865

Sir.

I have the honor to inform you that the following described property is yet on the Books of this office as Abandoned Property

One frame building. Those rooms situated on North side of Pulton Street Pine Bluff Ark.

You are hereby notified that I will take formal possession of the property on the 1st day of January next if the property is not restored by Special Order from the Assistant Commissioner previous to that time -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
A Geissler
Lieut & Agent B. R. F & A. L.

Capt. C. B. Thornton Asst.
Com. Pine Bluff Ark.

Bureau of Indian Affairs,
Fort Bidwell Agency,
Fort Bidwell Cal.
Nov 26th 1894

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that the following abandoned property is yet on the Books of this Office as Abandoned Prop.

One frame house, two rooms about between Barrages 1 & 2 on Fort Bidwell Res.

You are hereby notified that I will take formal possession of the property on the 1st day of January 1895 if the property is not previously removed by their Order from the Office Commissioner

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
S. Chiriaco
Acting Agent U.S. Ind. Serv.

To Lieut. S. Skinner
Fort Bidwell Cal.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Port Bluff Ark
Nov 26th 1867

Benjamin & Wm Pennington
Walker Plantation.
Jefferson Co. Ark.

Sirs!

You are hereby ordered not to allow persons or employees of any portion of the cotton Corn or other products raised by the freedmen in your employ on the above named plantations until you will first procure any person or persons or claimants of any portion of said crops their all of the freedmen employed by you are fully paid for their services in raising said crops - Proof of payment will be the receipt in full of each freedmen for property witnessed. You will be held strictly accountable to this Bureau for the enforcement of this order -

S. Merritt
Lieut & Asst A.A.G. Bu R.F. & A.L.

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark Nov 25th 1867

Lieut.

I have the honor to inform you that the following described property is yet on the books of this office as Abandoned Prop-

One building four rooms situated in the suburbs of the City of Pine Bluff Ark.

You are hereby notified that I will take formal possession of the property on the 1st day of January next if the property is not previously retaken by its owner or proper authority.

Very respectfully
Your obt Svt
S. Cormier
Asst Agent B.R.F.& A.L.

Lieut. A. Washington
Pine Bluff Ark

Bureau of Public
Pine Bluff Ark Jan 25th 1869

Sir.

I have the honor to inform you that the following described property is yet on the Books of this office as Abandoned by

One story frame building. two rooms. situated between Barracks and Pullum Streets Pine Bluff Ark.

You are hereby notified that I will take formal possession of the property on the 3rd day of January inst. if the property is not previously restored by Special Order from the Asst Commissioner.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Reinwitz
Supt Freedmens Bu. Ark.

S. [illegible]
Pine Bluff Ark

Bureau R. Affrs.
Pine Bluff Ark. Nov 25th 1865

Lt.

I have the honor to inform that the following described property is yet on the Books of this office as abandoned Prop.

Four hundred acres of land. Quarter Sec. twenty Lands situated fifteen miles from Pine Bluffs Jefferson Co. Ark.

You are hereby notified that I will take formal possession of the property on the 1st day of January next if the property is not forthwith restored by Special Order from the Assistant Commissioner.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
O. Brisbin
Lieut & Agent B.R.F. & A.L.

Lieut Wm H. Long 1st Cav
Pine Bluff Ark

Bureau R. L. & F. C.
Point Bluff Ark.
Nov 25th 1867

Sir.

I have the honor to inform you that the following described property is put on the Books of this Office as Abandoned Prop.

One building one and a half story high in bad condition. Situated on Fourth Street Point Bluff Ark.

You are hereby notified that I will take formal possession of the property on the 1st day of January next. if the property is not preserviously restored by Special Order from the Gen'l Commissioner.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
O. Brewster
Local Agent B. R. L. & F. C.

Gilson Cairns
Point Bluff Ark

Bureau Of Ind.
Pens Phys. Wash. Nov 27 65

John R. Page Esq.
Special Agent

Bureau R. of F.A.L.
Port Bluff Ark.
Nov 25th 1865.

Sir.

I have the honor to inform you that the following described property in your Dist. Books of this office as Abandoned Prop.

Three hundred and sixty acres of land situated on the South Bank of Port Bluff Jefferson Co Ark.

You are hereby notified that I will take formal possession of the property on the 1st day of January next if the property is not previously restored by Special Order from the office Commissioner

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
A. Chesley
Asst Sub Ass't B.F.A.L.

Bayou Boeuf Ak.
Camp Bluff Oak Farm 7/63

Maj. Gen. Lee Comdg.
Valley of the Plantation

Sir.

Having been
ordered by Gen. Taylor to give you my
opinion as to the Improvement of Bayou
and Highway to Berwick Bay or
Attakapas Plantation, during a working
season: I have the honor to inform you
that when Federal Steamers ply between
the mouth of Teche and Berwick Bay
for the transportation of Troops
Provisions or Forage and while
engaged in transporting Troops Provisions
or Forage, they should not be
allowed to tow Flats or Lighters for Trade

Respectfully Your Obt. Servt.
Chief Engr. B.C.

Headquarters U. S. & N. S.

Pine Bluff, Ark. Nov 28th 1865.

Wm. C. Holmes,
Jefferson Co. Ark.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that a settlement has this day been made between A. C. Cobb and the following named freedmen employed by him on your plantation during the present year to include October 22d and that the accounts have been duly audited and verified by me. And it is found that the freedmen have claims against the crop on your plantation as the same set opposite their respective names.

Viz

Major Wightingale.	$ 76.57
Harris Henderson.	31.84
Laurence Holmes.	81.38
Edmund Lee Hospe-	51.53
Peter Lee	47.20
William Fauver	122.30
Total.	$ 410.95

You are hereby ordered not to sell, remove or dispose of any portion of the crop raised by said freedmen till the above amounts are fully paid, and proof of such payment will be the receipt in full of each freedman hereby mentioned.

S. Crocker

Lieut & Asst Supt Freedmen &c.

Executive Office Ark
Dept Pulaski Co & Rec'd 25

John A. Rose Esq
Fellow Citizen

Bureau R. Ed & F.
Pine Bluff Ark Oct 24th 1867.

Henry Page Esq.
A.A.A.G. B.R.E.&F.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith the following Returns for the month of October 1867. Viz -
Monthly Return of Bureau Stores. Duplicate
Voucher to Abstract B.
Abstract B 2 Vouchers
Voucher to Abstract G.
Voucher to Abstract I.
Voucher to Abstract L.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Carruthers
Lieut & Asst A.A.G. B.R.E.&F.

Bureau R. F. & L.

Pine Bluff Ark.

Nov 24th 1865

Henry Page Esq

Lieut Col &c &c

Little Rock Ark.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith Monthly Returns of Quartermasters Stores on hand for the month of October 1865.

I am Sir.

Very respectfully

Your obt Servt

S. Gunsaulus

Asst Agent R.F. & L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Nov 24th 1864

Henry Page Esq
Supt & D.A. B.R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark

Sir.

I have the honor to transmit herewith Monthly Returns of C. C. & G. C. in triplicate with one voucher for the month of October 1864

I am Sir.

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
A Geissler
Lieut & Agent B.R.F. & A.L.

Quarter Master's
Fort Bluff Ark.
Nov 28th 1864

Maj Gen Roy Esq.
Ch A.D.C. & R.S.W.A.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to transmit herewith for payment two sets of cash vouchers of the amount of eight and sixteen dollars respectively. for actual expenses incurred while traveling on duty without orders.

I am Sir.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt

Lieut & Agent B.R.R.W.A.

Bureau R. F & L.

Vicksburg Dist. August 1865

Messrs McChesney & Compton

Locality Palmetto Pln.

Jefferson Co. Miss.

Gentlemen

In accordance with instructions from the Asst Commissioner I have this day seized one fourth (¼) of all the products raised by the freedmen employed by you upon the Locality plantation Jefferson Co. Miss for the purpose of securing said freedmen full payment for their services. Also to satisfy the claims of Jobbers and others for services rendered to W. W. McChesney and Co. previous

All persons are forbidden selling removing or destroying of any portion of the crop as above specified till said claims for labor are fully paid, and evidence of such payment will be the receipt in full of each freedman properly witnessed

Lt Col & Asst Supt Bu R L & F

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Vicksburg Mississippi

Bureau of Refugees
Jefferson County
Miss.

Complaint having been made to this office by Lewis Martin freedman that you are detaining of the crop raised by the freedmen on your employ on the Rosemont plantation Jefferson Co Miss. before said freedmen have been paid for their services -

It is therefore ordered that no more cotton corn or other products raised by said freedmen now remaining on said plantation be sold or removed till all the freedmen employed be fully paid for their services - One fifth of judgment will be left in part of each freedman properly entitled -

You will be held strictly accountable by this Bureau for the enforcement of this order.

O. Brisbin
Lieut Col. & A.A.G.

Bureau R. F. & L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
December 2. 1865

Mr Fot Mc Gregor.
Pine Bluff Ark.

Sir,

You are hereby notified to hold yourself in readiness to remove the building now occupied by you at any time after five days from date. as the same will be restored to the Officers of A. M. E. Church to whom it properly belongs.

S. Corwin
Asst Agent Bureau R. F. & L.

R. R. Co. a/c
Pine Bluff Ark Dec. 2nd/67

Received of Isaac Haskell the following
due bills viz.

January 2	Rebecca Haskell		59.10
	Richard Haskell		40.25
			100.15
	Cr on note for Tools		14.00
	Bal due on same		86.16
	Clara Haskell		60.12
Jan. 1st/67	Isaac Haskell		35.95
	Francis Haskell		25.10
Bal due Isaac Haskell from 6 R R Co's			217.33

S Ginnuiter
Supt & Agt R R Co a/c.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Bureau R. F'rd's.
Fort Bluff Ark. Dec 2nd 1864

Maj Page Brig
Q. M. U. S. R. F'rd's
Little Rock Ark

Sir -

I have the honor to transmit herewith my Report of "Poisons & Antidotes" employed & during the month of November 1864

You are requested to put in the labor performed by George Darby in completing the School house as per contract of Jenks Wilson. This includes the repairing of the roof, the building of seven arches under the floors, & what Carpenter work was necessary on the inside of the building - The following is a bill of material furnished by Geo Darby towards the School house, and which ought to be taken by Jenks Wilson &.

200 feet of Lumber	$4.40
20 Lbs Nails at 12½ ¢ per Lb	2.50
120 Lbs Castings. Sash weights at 6¢ p Lb	7.20
11 Bunches of Cord for Sash at 25¢ ea	2.75
3 Iron Scrapers at $1.00 ea	3.00
3 Pairs of Glass 10×20 at 50¢ ea	1.50
2 Dog Pulleys for window frames at $1.00 pr ea	2.00
	$23.35

The above Articles were used in completing Brick two School houses as per Contract of Jas. Wilson.

Bill of material yet wanting to fully complete the School houses under the Contract.

83. 11 Lb Sash weights.

Holbrooks Patent Liquid slate for blackboards.

These Articles cannot be obtained here and will have to be sent for.

I am Sir

Very respectfully

Your Obt Servt

S. Winkler

Supt N. Ind. Dist. B.R. Sch'ls

Bureau R. Fr. & L.,
Pine Bluff Ark.
December 2nd 1867

Lieut Jno E Bennett,
A. A. A. G. B. R. F. & L.
Little Rock Ark,

Lieutenant

I have the honor to transmit herewith Monthly Report of Freedmen and Changes in Abandoned Lands for the month of November 1867.

I am Lieutenant

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S Crawford
Lieut & Agent B. R. F. & L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Port Bluff Ark
December 8. 1865

Majors C. Strickland Jr. &
Lovell & Bertrand Plantation
Majors J. W. Larson Cu. Ark.

Permission is hereby granted for you to ship and dispose of fifteen bales of Cotton raised by Carroll Price Squad. also eleven bales raised by Lee Larson Squad. All on the Lovell & Bertrand plantation.

S. Quinette
Local Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. A. & F. L.
Fort Bluff Ark
Dec 4th 1864

Mrs Jane E. Simms
Fort Bluff Ark.
Madam.

I have the honor to return herewith your application for the restoration of property held by this Bureau for Oath of Amnesty oath as required by the Commissioner of this Bureau -

If the original copy of your oath of Amnesty has been lost you can take it again, and state in the same the time the original oath was taken -

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
[illegible]
Sub Asst Commissioner

Bureau R. F. & A.
Pine Bluff Ark
Dec 4th 1867

Majr. Galloway, Asst. Comr.

Attorney at Law
Pine Bluff Ark,

Majr,

I have the honor to return herewith the Application of Asa McKeggi for the restoration of property held by this Bureau.

The Seal of the Clerk of the Court required to his Certificate of Oath not affixed.

Very respectfully
Your obt. Servt.
A. Ricaud
Sub Asst Comr.

A. Ricaud

Major:

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Dec 4th 1865

J. A. Bradley Esq
Jefferson Co. Ark.

Sir.

Complaint having been made to this Bureau by Washington Gillett Colored that you refuse to pay him and others for services rendered in picking Cotton on the Col Allis place and that they are in danger of losing their pay for said services - It is therefore ordered that no Cotton belonging to you raised on said place be sold or removed from where it now is till full payment is made to all of the freedmen employed in gathering the same.

S. Corwin
Sub Asst Commr R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Port Bluff Ark.
Dec 5th 1865

To all whom it may concern.

Notice is hereby given that Lucks Dyfferins. Dick. Green and John Davis. freedmen, employed upon the Minnie Atkins plantation Jefferson Co. Ark. have entered complaint in this office, that they are in danger of losing their pay for services rendered during the present year upon said plantation, by reason of the removing and disposing of the crop raised by them - It is therefore ordered that no more cotton or other products raised by said freedmen be sold or disposed of till all of the freedmen employed in raising the same be fully paid for their services: proof of such payment will be the receipt in full of each freedman employed hereby interested.

L. Lisle
Asst Supt Bu R.F. & A.L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Dec 6th 1864.

Henry Pope Esq.
Supt. B.R.F.&A.L.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith the following vouchers for payment &c.

Henry C. Darrell for Services rendered $30.00
Lydia C. Reed for Board and Lodging 4.16.
L. Geisreiter for Postage 12.00
$46.16

I am Sir
Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
S. Hurlbut
Lieut & Asst A.A.G. B.R.F.&A.L.

Bureau R. of F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Dec 6th 1865

A. G. Cobb Esq
Jefferson Co Ark.

Sir.

This office having been informed that you are making use of a portion of the crop raised on the Dr Holmes plantation. Contrary to instructions from this office of about 1st 1865. You are hereby ordered to turn over to Dr. S. Holmes all the products raised on said plantation now in your possession, or under your control. to be held by him in trust for the benefit of the freedmen employed in raising the same. Any violation of this order will subject you to arrest and trial by Military Commission.

S. Thurston
Supt. Freedmen Bu. R. & A. L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Miss Bluff Ark.
Dec 6th 1865

Lemon Mc F Haskell Esq.
Supt Huron Co. Ark

I find upon settlement with the freedmen employed by you during the present year that you are owing the following named freedmen as follows Viz:-

Aaron Haskell	$ 19.82
Sylvia Haskell	63.20
Albert Hall	25.65
Albert Hurst	11.00
Total	$ 119.57

S. Conner
Superintendent B.R.F.&A.L.

Bureau R. F. & A.
Port Bluff Ark.
Dec 7th 1865

Edmund A. Rowley Esq.
Jefferson City Mo.

Sir.

You are hereby furnished to assume duties of office from your relief to be stationed at Bureau Landing and report there to the Asst Comr of this Bureau.

By Command
Lieut & Asst Adjt Gen'l

Fort Lincoln, Dak. Ter.
Oct. 31st 1867.
Lieut. Col. W. H. H. Nash,
Fifth Asst. Adjt. Genl.
Department.

Lieutenant.

I have the honor to submit herewith the following as my narrative report for the month ending November 30th 1867.

The election of delegates to the Constitutional Convention constituted one of the principal items of interest during the first of the month. From the best information I can obtain, I find that good order prevailed every where throughout the county except at Oakland and Bogy Precincts. The freedmen there got the impression that the ticket headed by Dr Geo. L. Light was being run in the interest of the conservative party, and that the candidates were being run in order to defeat the regular nominees of the Republican party. In their zeal to carry out what they believed to be right, and being jealous of their freedom, and the privileges so recently conferred, they manifested their indignation in a manner so as to seriously alarm the candidates above referred to who deemed it best to withdraw from the contest -

The School-house is now nearly finished. The new seats and benches are in all arranged and very comfortable. The teachers will be here in a few days. Rev E. R. Miller Agt Supt of Education is on the ground and proposes having a formal dedication of the house after the teachers arrive. He has also visited several plantations where he addressed the freedmen.

Wm Miller is exerting a good influence over the people. his services are very much needed at this particular time. the freedmen being discouraged and desponding: it is cheering that some one should arise their drooping energies. point out to them the numerous advantages the country still affords. and cause them to take hold with renewed vigor — This county is one of the finest agricultural districts in the state. the past season splendid crops of corn and other cereals have been raised by a few sufficient to demonstrate that it is the fault of the people and not of the soil. Climate or the season, that thousands of the poore classes are in want of subsistence to day: the people all alone to comprehend. and unless the masses are enlightened and fully apprised of the necessity of a change in the manner of cultivating the soil. the same mistake might again be made. and destitution and

H. S.

continues to prevail - Gen Miller fully
understands the condition of affairs. And
has the confidence of the freedmen, and good
will of the planters, and can aid me materially
in instructing the freedmen - Planters are
apprehensive of mob violence on the part of the
freedmen and express their fears fully. Some
will not undertake to settle with their hands
unless I am present. I have no fears however
if the planters themselves are not impudent -

The prospect of the establishment of ~~planters~~
schools is anything but flattering owing to
the present destitute condition of the colored
people. and the inability in some, and the
indisposition in others of the planters to
provide suitable homes for teachers, or guarantee
the payment of the teachers salary -

It is a difficult matter for freedmen
to procure land in fee simple whereon to
build a school house - Planters who are
ready to give a base, are either not willing
to give a warranty deed, or can not do so
by reason of the property being encumbered
by mortgage - Planters who a month ago
assured me of assistance, now declare their
inability to comply with their promises
on account of the unlooked for depression in
the price of cotton and the shortness of the crop -

many are forced to quit planting and thousands of laborers will be thrown out of employment. how these people are to live. I cannot tell. the county authorities I am informed are now providing for seven white paupers. and are doing nothing whatever for the negros. who ought to be provided for who are now suffering and cannot get employment. I have applications made to me daily by parties seeking work whose families are at home in a destitute condition. such cases can be seen in the street of this City almost every day. many of them thoroughfares without a home. scarcely shelter and not sufficient clothing to cover their nakedness. I am issuing what clothing I have on hand. the supply being about all will soon be exhausted -

The Refugees and Freedmens Hospital at this place will be closed in accordance with Circular No 20 Current Series as soon as transportation can be furnished for the purpose of conveying the few permanent cripples to the General Hospital at Little Rock. No more patients are being admitted. the Dispensary still remains in the hospital building.

The business of the office is constantly increasing. As yet but few settlements have been made. the freedmen are somewhat tardy in settling their rents, or most musterous

are over paid and do not care.

In accordance with directions contained in Circular No 18 Bureau Refs. I will state that I have visited twenty plantations and traveled two hundred and eighteen miles on official business during the month. When I had an opportunity I sent word to Freedmen I purposed visiting. I could not make appointments owing to the amount of business some plantations being so much greater than on others. I have gone wherever I was sent by my friends and most needed. Thus far all orders have been strictly obeyed. And the planters take pains to inform themselves concerning the regulations of the Bureau.

I have attached the entire crop on four different plantations where the hands were not paid for their last years labor; Also the crop on five other places where the freedmen were employed for stipulated wages and were likely to be deprived of their hire by reason of the landlord or the merchant claiming the whole of the crop under liens or mortgages. When I am personally satisfied that the planter is justly entitled to the larger portion of the freedmens share of the crop for supplies furnished I permit the shipment of some of the cotton but retain enough of the crop to compel

& Settlement and secure whatever balances may be due the freedmen.

The duties of the office are becoming most arduous, the settlements when made will leave the majority of the freedmen in debt, and unless the Annual Government comes to the rescue, many must perish from hunger, the civil authorities elsewhere then making to punish, and the freed themselves can do but little -

Very respectfully
Your Ob. Servt.
[illegible]
Asst Supt Agent Bureau R. F. & A.

Bureau R. F. & L.,
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 9th 1867,

Lieutenant Jones Comdg,
Chartered Freight Plantation,
Jefferson Co Ark.,

You are hereby directed to appear at this office without delay on business pertaining to this Bureau - A prompt compliance with this order will be expected.

S. Geisreiter
Lieut & Agent B.R.F.& L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.

Pine Bluff Ark Dec 9th 1865.

Edmund Jones Colonel

Natural Wright Plantation.

Jefferson Co. Ark,

Complaint has been made to this Bureau by James McClain and other freedmen in your employ that you are disposing of the cotton raised by them on the above named plantation and that they are in danger of losing their pay for services rendered in raising the same -

You are hereby ordered not to sell or remove any portion of your share of said crop remaining on said plantation. till all of the hands employed in raising the same are fully paid for their services. proof of payment will be the receipt in full of each freedman Employed by you respectively interested -

D. Clarke

Asst Supt Bu R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. F. & L.,
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 9th 1867

Messrs Vaughan & Pittman
Jefferson Co. Ark.

Messrs.

I have this day made a Settlement between yourselves and the following named freedmen who have been in your employ during the present season, and after verifying the accounts and the freedmen selling to you their entire interest in the crop. I find them in debt to you as follows Viz.

Jos. Evans	$134¼
Smith Patton	80.24
Richard Nichols	45.67
Silas Peavine	22.10
Elijah Peck	68.89
[illegible] Thomas	31.00
[illegible] Watkins	35.09
Harriet Evans	18.62½

This Bureau has no further claims upon said crop. The same being hereby relinquished.

Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Asst Supt B. R. F. & L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Dec 11th 1865.

To all whom it may concern.

Complaint has been made to this Bureau by Samuel Knipes and Sibb Williams freedmen employed by Samuel W. Pairs upon the plantation of R. B. Jackman in Jefferson Co Ark. that the said R. B. Jackman refuses to let them have their portion of the crop raised by them under contract between Samuel W. Pairs and themselves.

All persons are hereby ordered not to interfere with the freedmens portion of said crop (which is one half) except those who have claims against the same for advances furnished to said freedmen which claims the owners of the freedmen are to enforce the same for same.

O. Brisbin
Lieut Asst. B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Dec 12th 1867.

Henry Hoyt Esq
Supd R. F & A. L.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Check No 1066 on Merchants National Bank Little Rock for three hundred forty five & 50/100 dollars -

I am Sir
Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
S. Eaton
Asst Agent B. R. F & A. L.

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
Vicksburg Miss
Dec 8th 1865

David Crawley "Cold"
Hill Plantation
Jefferson Co. Miss,

You are hereby ordered to hold the cotton abandoned to you to be ginned by Lewis Thomas Esqr, on or about the 10th inst- till further orders from this Bureau.

S. Conner
Lieut & Agent B.R.F.& A.L.

Bureau R. F. & A. F.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Dec 18th 1867.

Henry Rogers Esq
Supt Bureau R. F. & A. F.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of check for my salary for Month of November and Little Rock and have written you fifteen letters.

I am Sir

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Geisreiter
Asst Supt Agent B. R. F. & A. F.

Bureau R. R. Co.
Pine Bluff Ark
Dec. 18th/67

Asa Dunson Esq.

Sir

Complaint having been made
by Judge Spencer (colrd) employed by
you during the year 1866, who states
that you have not paid him for
services rendered by himself and wife
in accordance with Sec. No 7 G.O.
Assistant Comr Genl and Asst I.G.O.
No 9 Hd Qrs. 4th Sub. Dist. Dist. you
are hereby ordered not to remove any
portion of the corn now remaining
on your plantation until you have
settled all claims for labor against you
by said Spencer for the year 1866 and authority

To insure the action is obtained
from the Pension
In case of dispute between you and
the freedmen the matter in dispute
will be decided by three referees, two
of the referees to be selected by the parties
to the dispute and these two select a
third and if they fail to elect the third
then by the Agent of the Pension
The records and decision of the case
will be submitted to the office for
inspection

Yours &c

Very respectfully
Your obt svnt
L. Pitcairn
Lieut 8th Ohio

Bureau of R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark. 18th/65

Lieutenant John C. Bennett
A. A. A. G. P. B. D. & Ad.
Little Rock Ark.

Lieutenant

In reply to your communication of the 14th inst. I have the honor to inform you that in case of my muster out of service as 2nd Lieut 5th U.S.C. Cav. I shall be pleased to accept an appointment as Civilian Agent in the Bureau of Refugees Freedmen and Abandoned Lands

I am Lieutenant

Very respectfully
Your obdt. servt.
S. Geisweiler
Lieut & Asst. A. A. B. D. & Ad.

Bureau R. & F. L.,
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 18th 1865

Henry Page Esq.
A.A.A.D.C. B.R.F.&L.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir

I have the honor to
transmit herewith the following vouchers
for purchases &c.

L. D. Voss for Rent & Forage.	$65,61
Lewis & Geyer for Stove & Pipe.	73,50
G. Keyes & Bro for Chairs.	9,00

Also Receipts signed for the same.

I am Sir

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt

Asst Agent B.R.F.&L.

Bureau R. & F. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Dec 9th 1867.

Henry Page Esq.
A. A. & O. G. B. R. & F. L.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith the following Returns of Bureau Stores for the month of December 1867 Viz.

Monthly Return of Bureau Stores — Duplicate
Requisition to Abstract E.
Abstract E — 2 Vouchers
Voucher to Abstract - E.
Voucher to Abstract E.
Voucher to Abstract E.

Very respectfully your Obt Servt
[illegible]
[illegible]

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark. Dec. 21st 1867

Alexander & Watson
Alexander Plantation
Jefferson Co. Ark.

Complaint has been made to this Bureau by Lemon Crawford and Lewis Pierson freedmen employed by you during the present year. that you refuse to deal with them for their services.

You are hereby ordered not to sell, remove or dispose of any portion of the crop raised by the freedmen on your employ now remaining in your hands till full settlement is made with all of said freedmen. In case of disputes a Board of Arbitration will be instituted composed of three members. two of whom will be selected by the two parties to the question. and the third by the two thus chosen and the decision of this Board will be final

O. Ellis Keller
Asst Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R.F.V.&L.
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 20th 1867

O. H. Crook Esq
Jefferson Co. Ark.

Sir.

Complaint has been made to this Bureau by Adam Slaughter formerly employed by you during the present year that you have withheld all of the Cotton raised by him while in your employ to the Mulberry Grove plantation in Jefferson Co. Ark without his consent and that you refuse to settle with him for his services and that of his wife -

You are hereby ordered not to sell or dispose of any portion of said Cotton till full settlement is made with said Slaughter & wife. and in case of dispute a Board of Arbitration will be instituted composed of three members. one to be selected by the employer. one by the Laborer. and the Third by the two thus chosen. and the decision of this Board to be final.

You will be held strictly accountable for the enforcement of this order.

O. Brewster
Asst Supt Bureau R.F.&L.

Bureau of Ed'n.

Pine Bluff Ark.

December 28th 1867

Wm H. Colby Esq.

Sup't Education.

Little Rock Ark.

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith Consolidated Monthly Reports of Schools for the Month of November 1867

I am Sir

Very respectfully

Your obed't Serv't

Levi Wiley

Local Agent

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark
Dec 21st 1867.

To the freedmen employed upon the plantation,
of Mrs Mary Travis Jefferson Co. Arkansas.

Complaint has been made to this Bureau
by Mrs Mary Travis that you refuse to gin the
Cotton on said plantation according to Contract.
and that you threaten to kill any persons
employed by Mrs Travis to gin the same - - -
You are hereby warned not to interfere
with any person or persons employed by Mrs
Travis to gin said Cotton, as your Contract
gives her the right to employ such labor; and
any interference on your part will be a violation
of Contract and you will be punished to the
utmost extent of the law - You are also warned
that such threats will subject you to arrest and
confinement if complaint should be made -

S. Ruisseller
Asst Supt B.R.F. & A.L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Dec 21st 1865

To all whom it may concern-

Be it known that complaint has been made to this Bureau by Anthony Beauford freedman, that he was employed to pick cotton on the Dr Jenkins plantation two miles below Pine Bluff. by Simon Jenkins freedman and foreman of the squad on said plantation and that he is in danger of losing his pay for said service by reason of the removal of cotton belonging to said squad-

All persons are forbidden to sell remove or dispose of any portion of the cotton belonging to the squad above mentioned till settlement and full payment is made for the services as specified above. and in case of disputes the same will be left to a Board of Arbitration -

O. Sherman
Asst Agent B.R.F.&A.L.

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Dec 23. 1867.

Messrs Carson & Williams
Carson Plantation.
Jefferson Co. Ark.

Complaint has been made to this Bureau that certain parties have been removing a portion of the crop raised on the Carson plantation before the same has been properly divided. All persons are forbidden selling. removing or disposing of any portion of the crop now remaining on said plantation till a full settlement has been made, and in case of disputes the same will be left to a Board of Arbitration and their decision will be final.

Asst Supt Bu. R. F & A. L.

Bureau R. F. & P.
Fort Kellogg Ark
Dec 23 1867

Messrs Chadwell & Franklin
Horton plantation
Jefferson Co Ark.

Complaint has been made to this Bureau by Alfred Jones freedman that he has not been paid for his services for the year 1866 and that Mr Chadwell is still indebted to him for said services.

In accordance with Circular No 17 Current Series Asst Commissioner of Freedmen Little Rock Ark and paragraph III General Orders No 19 Current Series Head Quarters 4th Military District: you are hereby ordered not to remove any portion of the crop belonging to said Chadwell, till settlement and full payment is made to said Jones and Authority to remove the same is obtained from this Bureau. In case of dispute between said Chadwell & Jones the matter in dispute will be directed by three referees one to be selected by each party and the third by the two thus chosen - The records and decision of these referees will be submitted to the Agent of this Bureau for his inspection

S. Leisrecter

Bureau R. E & M. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Dec 26th 1865.

T. J. Armstrong. Sheriff. &c. Shiffio County,
W. Mitchel Esqr, and all others to whom
it may concern.

Complaint having been made to this Bureau by James Harris (Colored) stating that he has been employed by you on the Armstrong plantation. and that you have not paid him his wages. and the wages earned by his children Georgia Ann Maria. Dony and Spooner -

It is therefore ordered that you will not sell. remove or dispose of any portion of the crop of Cotton and Corn now on said plantation until you have paid in full for all labor remaining unpaid.

Asst Agent B. R F & M. L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.

Pine Bluff Ark. Dec 26th 1865.

Complaint having been made to this office by Beckett Cavitt and other freedmen employed on the Kimbrough plantation by J Henry Reaves stating that they cannot obtain a satisfactory settlement and are likely to be deprived of a portion of their share of the crop of Cotton and corn raised by them on said plantation.

It is therefore ordered that a Board of Arbitration be convened without delay who will investigate the case and audit the accounts.

The laborers will choose one of the Arbitrators and J. Henry Reaves the others, and these two select the third. The Board will keep a record of its proceedings and report its action to this office. The Cotton and Corn now on the plantation will remain until further orders.

S. Cunliffe

Lieut Col. & A.A.G.

Bureau R. & F. L.
Pine Bluff Ark. Dec 26th 1865

Lt. A. Rogers
Sheriff Jefferson Co. Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to respectfully request that you release from attachment and turn over to the freedmen in the employ of H. W. & W. W. Blunt their respective share of cotton due them under the contract on file in this office -

Jacob Tollifero (colored) and squad are entitled to one half and Edmund Williams (col'd) and squad are entitled to one third of the crop raised by them.

The cotton now at Memphis viz the hands of the Chief of Police will be

one

considered as the property of the freedmen.

I am Sir

Very respectfully

Your obt. Servt

[illegible]

Lieut. Col. [illegible]

Bureau R. F. & B.
Vicksburg Miss.
Dec 26th 1865

Jenkins McCoy
Bell Plantation.
Jefferson Co. Miss.

Complaint has been made to this Bureau by Lewis Ellison and Dave Watson freedmen employed by you on the Bell plantation that you are about to sell the cotton raised by them before a settlement has been made. It is therefore ordered that no cotton be shipped or shipped off from said plantation to full settlement is made with all the freedmen employed in raising the same. In case of dispute the matter will be settled by a Board of Arbitration which will be ordered by a justice of the peace having jurisdiction of the case.

O. Nichols
Asst Supt Bureau R. F. & B. Miss.

Bluff R. Fd. N.S.
Vicksburg Miss.
Dec 24th 1864

Dennis Bracken Esq
Mill Plantation.
Jefferson Co. Miss.

Sir You are hereby notified that the order dated Bureau R. Fd. N.S. Vicksburg Miss. Dec 14th 1864, ordering you to turn the cotton left with you to be ginned by Lewis Thomas, Esq. is hereby revoked.

Your Obt Servt
Lieut Agent B.R.Fd.N.S.

U. S. Ch. Ct.
Fine Chief Act Sec 2/13/57

This is to certify that I have this day sold to L. A. Buck Esq Agt for Said Buck Ranch Indian Town the entire share of the fractional section of the pattern grown by them on the Red River Reservation in Dakota Ty I agree to pay for same eight hundred pounds at two cents (2¢) per pound. The amount to be filled by said L. A. Buck to the credit of said Indians to liquidate their indebtedness on the books of Buck and Bro. for the furnishing during the year 1857 of said tribe of Indians and more or less Cash in the hands of L. A. Buck or J. H. Buck to which they might be entitled over and above their

L. S. Beach Agt. upon payment of
charges thereon. Should the cotton be sold
by Galbreth Steward and Co. in accordance
with special instruction previously given
by me then the proceeds will be accounted
for by me to L. S. Beach Agt.
This sale is made in accordance with
instructions from the Freedmen Bureau as per
affidavits on file in my office

[illegible] (10)

S. Christler
2nd Lieut Agt. R.B.F.A.L.

B. R. O. & A. L.

Pine Bluff Ark Dec 2/69

Gordeman Esq. Agt for Sheriff

Red Boy Plantation

Sir:

In accordance with special instructions to you as agent for Col. C. M. Page. Sheriff you will please turn over to the freedmen on the Red Boy Plantation the balance of their share of the cotton, there being as I am informed one hundred and eighty bales in all one half of which belongs to the freedmen, fifty of the bales have been shipped to the order of the freedmen leaving eighty to be released by you and turned over to the [illegible] as their agent upon demand

I am sir, very respectfully

Your obdt. servt

[illegible]

4.00

P. R. S. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark. Dec 1/69

Gulbuth Steward & Co
Memphis Tenn.

Please turn over to L. & Road Ag't for Rock Road to 11/5 and oblige
Yours in your profession & friends if able

J. Cuisinier
Land Ag't P.R.S.&L.

R. R. Y & A L
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 27/69

A. A. Rogers Esq
Pine Bluff Ark

Sir:

I have the honor to return herewith your application for the restoration of your section on the books of this office as abandoned. You will please furnish proof of title a meeting of the certificate of the clerk with County seal affixed and return to same without delay

I am sir

Very respectfully
Your obdt servt
A Leisenring
Supt. & Engr R. R. Office

U. S. Q. A.
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 9/9

C. H. Penman Esq
Atty in fact for E. H. Miller
Sir:

I have the honor
to return herewith your application
for the restoration of the Assets of Dan
Miller now in the hands of this office
Please call at this office for additional
instruction as this case not to forward
in the shape it is now in

Dear sir

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
L. Lincoln
Chief Clerk

Bureau R. of F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Dec 24th 1867.

To all whom it may concern.

This office having been furnished with satisfactory evidence showing that S. R. Coates has at present no interest in the crop growing on the Pine Bluff plantation: And furthermore that he has been declared a Bankrupt and is therefore entitled to protection as such.

The order issued from this office dated November 25th 1867. is hereby revoked.

S. Carruth
Supt & Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. Fd & F.S.,
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 29th 1865.

Lieut Jno E Bennett.
A. A. A. G. B. R. Fd & F. L.
Little Rock Ark.

Lieutenant-

In compliance with Circular Letter from the Asst Commissioner's Office dated Dec 19th 1865 I have the honor to transmit the following estimate of clothing &c. &c.
100 Hats. 75 Caps. 150 Coats. 200 Jackets. 200 pair Booties. 150 pair Negro Brogans. 275 pair Shoe Strings. 100 Great Coats. 200 Woolen Blankets. 50 Rubber Blankets.

The above is a low estimate. An addition of twenty five per cent will not meet the demand. We can get along with the above

over.

Amount but if more can be spared please
forward. The destitution among the freed people
is indeed great and many are very poorly clad.

I am Lieutenant

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
A Guiraita
Lieut Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

U.S.A. Ala.

Fmc. Dist Ct Dist

To All To Whom These May Concern

Information having been received at this office that one Anthony Crawford who has agreed to select a suitable person for the purpose of arbitrating the matter in dispute or claiming the fencing of some cotton on the Jenkins Plantation & is thereby ordered that Phillip Poich (called) shall act as the arbitrator on behalf of (Anthony Crawford alias) who will confer with the arbitrator selected by the other party for the purpose of choosing a third man, as an arbitrator then they will proceed to adjudicate the matter in dispute and settle the question. To this effect

A. Wilcox
Dist Ct U.S.A. Ala.

Office Provost Marshal
Pine Bluff Ark
Dec 29th 1863

Shelby Richardson
Conscript for Registration
Dis

Satisfactory evidence
having been produced that there is no further
objection on the part of the freedmen employed
by Chaloner and Loy as to the shipment of
the cotton raised by them the order issued
by this office Sept 15 the shipment of said
cotton is hereby revoked

S. Brooks
Agent Provost Marshal

P. P. S. & A.

Fine Bluff Ark Dec 9/67

C. M. Boggs Sheriff

Sir.

I am informed by Bland & Co. that you have my as yet unpaid with my Excuse for the 25 inst. in naming the reasons for the freedmens portion of the crop grown by them on the Dr Kinsie Plantation I would respectfully inform you that it is by direction of the freedmen that I remain the attorney now at Memphis, on their portion of the crop. You certainly cannot have control of the freedmens portion of the crop, they have elected Messrs Bland & Co. to sell their share of the cotton and are now employed by your attachment. I remain Sir your obedient

The attorneys at Hempstead and
within shew to this Court reasons
why this cause should not be
placed in order that the same may be
in accordance with the rules of this
court.

Dan'l Ingraham
Att'y for Pltff
St. Louis Mo.
Dist'd Clerk's Office

4115

C. R. I. & P. R'y Co.

Fort Bluff Ark Dec 31/07

Henry Page A. G. & D. C. R. I. & P. R'y Co.

Little Rock Ark

Sir:

I have the honor herewith for payment the following vouchers

Patrick Fitzgerald, use of office for Dec $2.50

Use out of Pasture for actual expenses for Dec $7.50

One do Postage for Dec. 4.00

$15.00

Yours very respectfully

Jno. Wesley Ward

A. Quartermaster.

Copy to Agt. C. R. I. & P. R'y Co.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Paris Bluff Unit
Dec 20th 1865

To all whom it may concern.

This office having been credibly informed that Col M. L. Bell intends to contemplates selling the entire crop of Cotton and Corn raised on the "Rosseau" or "Bell" plantation upwards of the claim or interest one the part of the freedmen employed to raise said crop - Any and all persons are hereby forbidden to remove or in any manner dispose of the freedmen's portion of said crop which is one half until the Board of Arbitration now ordered by Capt Gardeman A.A.A.G. can convene and effect a fair and equitable settlement between freedmen and their employer.

O. Brownell
Lieut & Asst A.A.A.G.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 6th 1865

To All whom it may concern.

Complaint has been made to this office by William Ancrum Freedman employed upon the Kingsley plantation Jefferson Co Ark under contract with Lyons Mc Clay that the cotton and corn raised by the freedmen on said plantation during the year 1865 before a settlement has been made with the freedmen employed in raising the same.

All persons are forbidden to sell remove or dispose of any portion of the crops raised by said freedmen upon said plantation during the present year without the consent of the freedmen employed in raising the same. Any person or persons violating this order will be arrested by a Provost Marshal of the District and dealt with as the circumstances of the case may require.

O. Brown
Superintendent Bureau R. F. & A. L.

Bureau R. E & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Dec 31st 1867.

Henry Page Esq.
Lt A & D.C. B.R.F.&A.L.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to transmit herewith Monthly Returns of Quartermasters Stores in my hands for the Month of November 1867.

I am Sir
Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Geisweite
Asst Agent B.R.F. & A.L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.

Pine Bluff Ark.

Dec 31st 1867.

Henry Page Esq
Supt B.R.F. & A.L.
Little Rock Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to transmit herewith Monthly Returns of C. O. & G.S. in this District with one voucher for the month of December 1867.

I am Sir

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
A. Gilmore
Lieut 38th Infantry

A. G. O. & L.
Cin. Chief Clerk.
January 11th 1867

Samuel T. Johnson Esq.
Agt. for Chester S. Ashley
Jefferson Co. Ark.

Sir.

Information having been received at this office that a settlement has been effected by A. G. Stoddard & Co with the agent of which Richard Hearn is foreman of the said freedmen are largely in debt to Stoddard & Co for supplies furnished for which said Stoddard & Co have a lien upon the freedmen entire crop of the year and inasmuch as the freedmen have sold a portion of their crop of cotton before paying

for the supplies furnished, for which they have been paid in full by you, who is reported to this office as the purchaser; you will therefore pay to said Woodland & Co.
the whole amount due from you who will credit the publishers on their books for the same

Sir, &c

Very respectfully
Your obt. Servt
S. Cairnette
Disbursing Agt. P.O.Dept.

L. R. F. & C.

Big Bluff Ark

January 1st 1868

Ralph Kenyon Esq.

Arbitrator in behalf of Employees

employed on Col Cy Plantation by Powell & Co.

Sir.

I have the honor to inform you that I am acting authorized by the two Millwood Parties to the selection of whatever may be done from Powell & Co. below Jan 1st is not practicable for me to attend to the matter in full, I will on Monday the 6th day of which may be satisfactory for them, who will meet me at Mr. Millwood's Plantation on Big Bluff where the Examination may be given in the Case with this [illegible]

Respectfully Yours

[illegible]

Head Qrs 4th Div.

Pine Bluff Ark. Dec 8th 63

Lt. Major L. Cap. Smyth

Chief Q. M. 7th Div. of Ark.

Major.

I have the honor to respectfully inform you that I have not received my commutation of fuel and Quarters for the months of August September October, November and December, I now ask you if you will be kind enough to forward me a check for the same at your earliest convenience, as I am in need of money, and I do not know when I will receive my pay, I have not been absent from my command one day, since the 1st of October, the money was forwarded to me by mail. Hoping you will favor me as soon as possible, I remain your obedient Servant, Jno. M. Bishop

Capt. & A. A. Q. M.

by return mail a check for the amount due me

I am Major

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Merrill
Lt. Col. U.S.A.
Comg. 3d Cav.

W. O. & C. L.
Pine Bluff Ark Dec 8 70

Henry Page A.A.G.M.G.
Dist. A.R. & W.L. Little Rock.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that Lt. Geo. Daly 4th Regt Arkansas Vols. has ordered me under the following circumstances to forward to the R.T. Hospital at Little Rock and four loads of lumber from the landing to my yard at Pine Bluff, now to be shipped by Maj: J.H. Hutton of Helena that has since been received by me from the Depot Quartermaster at Little Rock. Please advise me by return mail if you would have

Bureau A. & M.A.L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Dec 31st 1865

Henry Page Esq
Supt Freedmens
Little Rock Ark.

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Circulars on Freedmens Bank & Little Rock for $1125 in payment of vouchers

Am Sir
Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
[illegible]
Lieut & Asst Supt

Bureau R. F & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Dec 31st 1867.

Lieut Jno C Bennett.
A. A. A. G. B. R. F & A. L.
Little Rock Ark.

Lieutenant.

I have the honor to transmit herewith Monthly Charges in Abandoned Lands for the month of December 1867.

I am Lieutenant
Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
S. Leistikow
Supt Agent B. R. F & A. L.

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Dec 31st 1867.

Lieut Jno C Bennett.
A. A. A. G. B. R. F. & A. L.
Little Rock Ark.

Lieutenant.

I have the honor to transmit herewith Monthly Report of Subsistence for the month of Dec 1867.

I am Lieutenant

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
O. Geisreiter
Asst Agent B. R. F. & A. L.

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Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Pine Bluff Ark.
Dec 31st 1865

Lieut Jno E Bennett.
A. A. A. G. B. R. F & A. L.
Little Rock Ark.

Lieutenant.

I have the honor to submit the following as my "narrative report" for the month ending December 31st 1865.

During the principal part of the month I was mostly absent from the office on plantations superintending the division of crops, adjusting accounts and making settlements; whenever it was not practicable for me to be present or when the matter in dispute between the employer and the laborer was of a complicated nature. District Boards of Arbitration to be established and have been effected with the freedmen on most of the plantations. I regret to learn that it is almost universal for freedmen to come out in debt especially where they worked for a share of the crop and have raised all cotton. We find where freedmen kept aloof from the squad system, or where they have worked for stipulated wages they

that they have something left either in money. corn or stock. the business connected with a plantation. the carefull and agement and close economy would require men of Hfluence. and there are numerous to ole business for themselves who have no education. Raised to nothing even of planting. will little ability to manage. and little less economy by consequently ringing the result in but few instances elce farmers have any capital to start with. merchants and planters offered them credit and beat out miserable the record in the court house shows that in numerous instances the crop was mortgaged for supplies to be furnished before a seed was planted. during the season I have found freedmen in debt for necessary supplies and other articles of much less beyond what their share of the crop could possibly bring. though they made full crop at liberal prices. In the settlements I have made I have found freedmen in debt from one to five thousand dollars. but few have anything left them, and the majority are heavily in debt. During the entire season the demand for labor was

in terms of the supply which caused much disatisfaction on the part of the citizens there was a great deal of sickness among the people of this county during the year. The cholera visited from the early part of July to the middle of October. In some plantations the mortality was great and the crops greatly damaged in consequence. This is attributed principally to the excessive fall or freshets. The misapplication on the part of the persons to assist each other in time of sickness, and the unfaithfulness on the part of some of the employees are at least that it cannot pay to mention names any longer.

The Asylum and Dispensary is now closed. The Barracks Store Furniture therein are still kept and the building vacant except so much as is occupied by Dr Jas M. Lewis as a Dispensary and Storeroom. This institution has proven a great blessing to the colored people and it is deplorable that the same is now closed. No application has thus far been made by the civil authorities of the county for the buildings and hospital property to be temporarily used for the benefit of paupers

the County Judge being in court this seems to be no one authorized to act. and those applying for relief to either Prest. Officers either put off or but purely formal for.

A formal dedication of the Freedmens School-house was had on the 17th inst. I was too sick to attend but am credibly informed that the occasion was a pleasant one. The school is as yet small. It is believed that after the holidays more children will attend. The Board of Trustees is actively at work canvassing the city and vicinity. The prospect for a large school is not flattering. many of the parents can not send their children to school as they have not the means to clothe them properly.

No reports of plantation schools for this month have been received at this office. Miss Mary Hitchcock at Chew Pascony is sick while the one commenced on Mr. Kyle's plantation by Wm. H. Hubbard had to be closed on account of the plantation being broken up. No new schools can at present be established. the freedmen are too poor and unsettled. they cannot contribute to the support of the same.

I have visited twenty plantations and traveled about two hundred and

forty miles on official business during the month. The duties of my office have been very laborious. the books and papers of the planters being generaly in bad shape. it takes much time and labor to ascertain the correctness of accounts. or effect a settlement - There seems to be no disposition on the part of the people to contract for the coming year. the negroes persist in demanding larger wages than can be paid. while the planters are undecided as to what course to pursue. the majority of the freedmen are now out of employment. many of them without the necessaries of life. they are nevertheless more quiet and orderly than was expected - many of the freedmen are leaving the valley. they are either going to the hills or to Tennessee. and the prospect are that labor will not be as plenty as many anticipated - For the present there is doubtless much suffering among the poor. I have distributed a large amount of clothing. shoes and blankets among them. and have sent for an additional supply which has not yet been received -

Six acres of property are yet on the books of this office as Abandoned pro-

Applications for restoration of property
have been forwarded but have not
been acted upon by the Appt Commissioner,

I am Lieutenant

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
L. Gilmore
Lieut Agent B.R.F.&L.

John yensy
Isooe Wieler
Jobus White
Edmund Taylor
Edgor Sullivan
Isham Smith
Alfred Rogers
William Moore
Brooklin Kinchir
John Eorge
Lain Colyer
Linsy Caufert
Isaoe Curry

Frank Wells
Jackson White
Andrew Wesler
Adalphus Taylor
William Stubblefuer
Alford Robinson
Jacob Morris
James Manuel
John Henry
Benganin Daniels
Dennis Mousmey
Thos Cook
Silas Rutter

MICROCOPY
M1901
ROLL
19

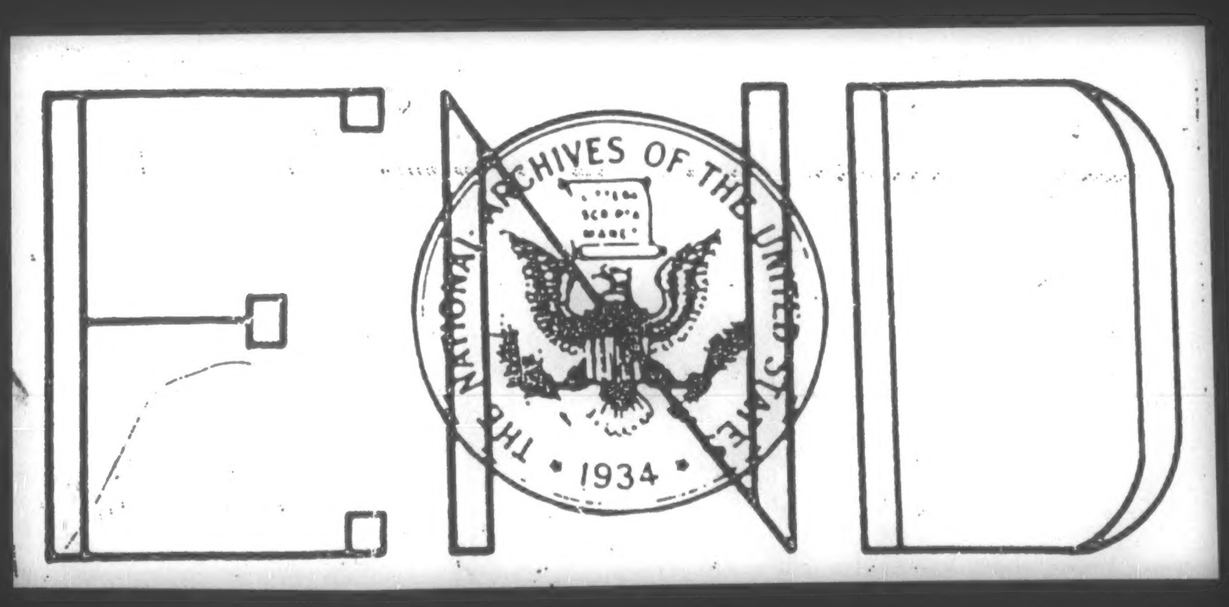
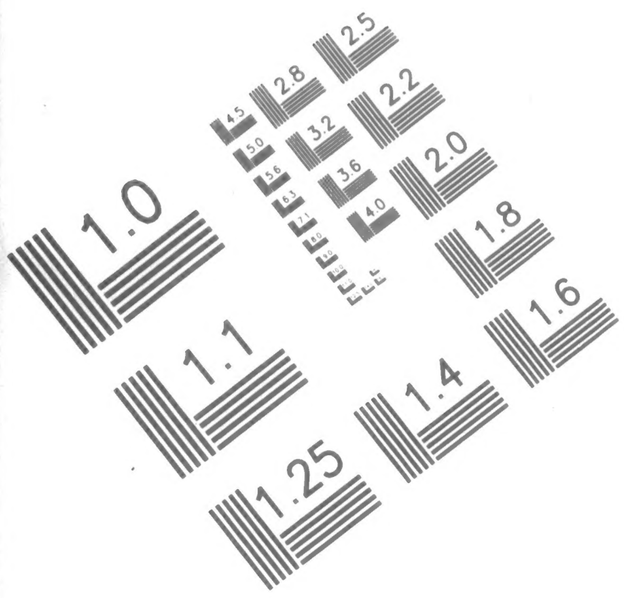
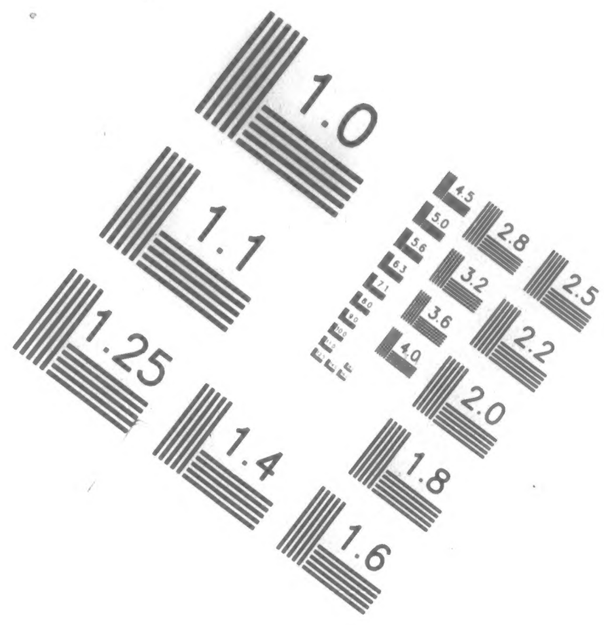
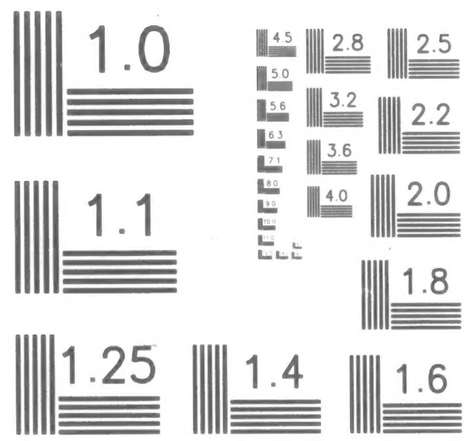
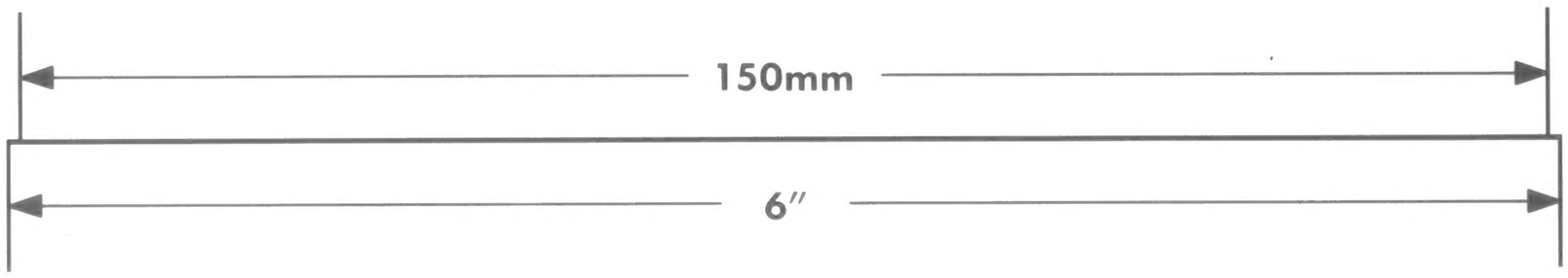


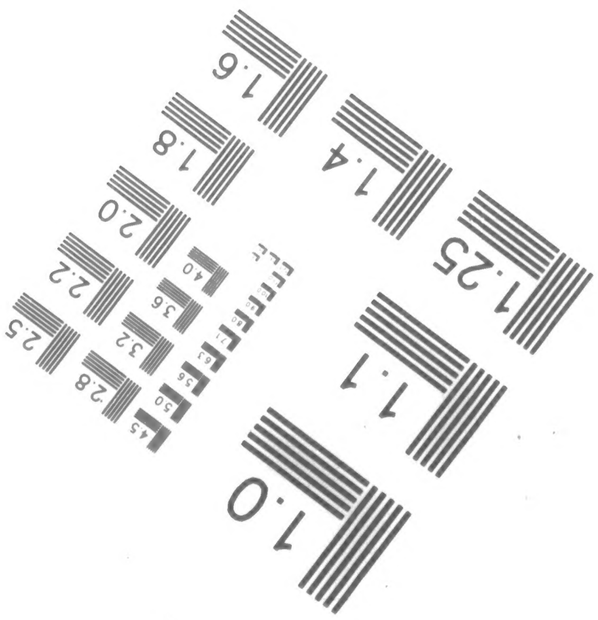
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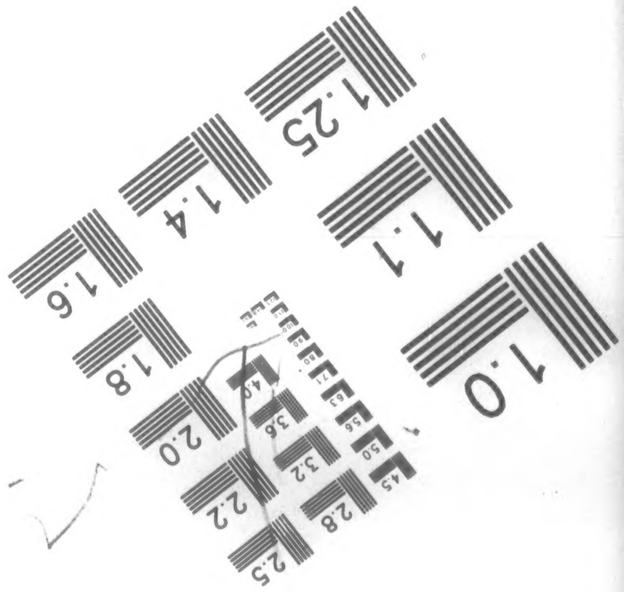






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THE END

PLEASE

REWIND